CHRONOLOGY OF SELECTED FEDERAL SOCIAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

1918 - 1991

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Social Program Information Division
Policy, Planning and Information Branch
Department of National Health and Welfare

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Également disponible en français sous le titre «Chronologie d'une sélection de lois fédérales ayant trait à la sécurité sociale depuis: 1918 à 1991».

PREFACE

This report highlights the major legislative developments that have occurred since 1918 with respect to a wide range of federal social programs, including those providing income security benefits, social services and health related benefits to Canadians. All programs are covered from their inception to January 1991, or in the case of some programs, to their termination dates. Programs which are no longer operating are identified by asterisks in the Table of Contents. Thus, the report provides an overview, from a legislative perspective, of the evolution of virtually all major federal social security programs in Canada, past and present.

The report is organized by program, and where possible, by groups of related programs. For each program, the authorizing legislation and any amending statutes are cited. The legislative provisions with respect to certain aspects of the programs such as eligibility, benefits, financing and administration are then summarized. More detailed program design characteristics that may have been dealt with by regulation are not included, as the Chronology is, generally, limited to legislation only. In certain cases, important historical amendments effected by Order-in-Council or other legislative mechanism are cited.

This report is the responsibility of the Social Program Information Division of the Policy, Planning and Information Branch of the Department. It is being distributed in loose-leaf form to facilitate future updates. Any comments on the nature or content of the report would be appreciated. For further information, or to provide comments, readers are invited to contact
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SECTION 1

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

CANADA ASSISTANCE PLAN

1966 - The Canada Assistance Plan, S.C.1966-67, c.45

- Effective April 1, 1966.
- Authorized agreements with the provinces for federal sharing of 50 percent of the cost to the province, and to municipalities in the province, of assistance and specified welfare services, granted in accordance with provincial legislation which met the federal criterion of need.
- Defined assistance as aid in any form to or in respect of persons in need for the purpose of providing for all or any of the following:
    1. basic requirements;
    2. prescribed items incidental to carrying on a trade or other employment, or other prescribed special needs;
    3. care in a home for special care;
    4. travel and transportation;
    5. funerals and burials;
    6. uninsured health care services;
    7. prescribed welfare services purchased by a provincially approved agency;
    8. comfort allowances for patients in hospitals or other approved institutions.
- Specified the following shareable welfare services:
    1. rehabilitation services;
    2. casework, counselling, assessment and referral services;
    3. adoption services;
    4. homemaker, daycare services;
    5. community development services;
    6. consulting, research and evaluation services with respect to welfare programs;
    7. administrative, secretarial, clerical services relating to provision of welfare services or assistance.
- Eligibility requirement: need.
- Authorized cost-sharing agreements with participating provinces for the extension of provincial welfare programs to Indians, but only with the consent of the band councils concerned.
- Authorized cost-sharing agreements with participating provinces for work activity projects to improve the employability of unemployables.
- Replaced the Unemployment Assistance Act except in respect of programs for which a means test was used and cost sharing was not applicable under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Canada Assistance Plan (cont.)

- Amended the Unemployment Assistance Act to authorize inclusion of mothers' allowances for cost-sharing purposes.
- Extended federal cost sharing to include child welfare maintenance.
- Extended the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act to the Canada Assistance Plan.
- Amended the Old Age Assistance Act, the Blind Persons Act and the Disabled Persons Act to allow provinces to discontinue receipt of applications and to provide assistance under their general programs with federal reimbursement under the Canada Assistance Plan.

1970 - Appropriation Act No. 1, 1970, S.C.1969-70, c.24, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 5b

- Effective April 1, 1970.
- Authorized continuation of federal payments and agreements relating to Canada Assistance Plan to March 31, 1971 (12 months beyond period specified in Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act).

1971 - Appropriation Act No. 1, 1971, S.C.1970-71, c.25, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 7c

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Authorized continuation of federal payments in respect of assistance and welfare services under the Canada Assistance Plan to March 31, 1972 (24 months beyond the period specified in Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act).

1972 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, 1972, S.C.1972, c.8, s.34, and Schedule I

- Assented to March 29, 1972.
- Increased tax abatement associated with special welfare programs (Canada Assistance Plan, Blind Persons, Disabled Persons and Unemployment Assistance) from four to five individual tax points.
- Amended the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act 1964-65 to extend the interim period to March 31, 1977.

Canada Assistance Plan (cont.)

1974 - Appropriation Act No.4, S.C.1974-75-76, c.21, Schedule, National Health and Welfare Vote 45B

- Effective April 1, 1974.
- Authorized payments
  - a) to Ontario and New Brunswick, in accordance with agreements, for contributions toward the cost of services to young offenders under the jurisdiction of correctional authorities;
  - b) to Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta, in accordance with agreements, to replace Canada Assistance Plan revenues lost due to the operation of universal nursing home care and benefit programs.

1977 - Federal Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, S.C.1976-77, c.10, Part VI

- Effective April 1, 1977.
- Authorized the payment of block grants to provinces to cover the costs of the extended health care services program, defined as:
  - a) nursing home intermediate care service;
  - b) adult residential care service;
  - c) converted mental hospitals;
  - d) home care service;
  - e) ambulatory health care service.

  (The effect is to reduce the sharing under C.A.P. in these services, except of a) and b) above for which C.A.P. sharing would continue for the costs of room and board, clothing and comforts allowances, and non-insured health costs, but, under agreements with provinces, only to the extent of an amount equivalent to the maximum rate of Old Age Security pension, Guaranteed Income Supplement.)
- Provided by agreement for sharing in the costs of comforts and clothing allowances for persons in need in hospitals to continue.
- Repealed the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.

1984 - Canada Health Act, S.C. 1983-84, c.6

- Effective April 1, 1984.

- Replaced references to the "Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act" in CAP with "Canada Health Act".

1984 - Cree - Naskapi (of Québec) Act, S.C. 1983-84, c.18

- Effective July 3, 1984.

- Amended definitions of "band", "council" and "reserve" under the Canada Assistance Plan to include reference to Indians as defined in the Cree - Naskapi (of Québec) Act.

1986 - Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act, S.C. 1986, c.27

- Assented to June 17, 1986.

- Further amended definitions of "band", "council" and "reserves" under the Canada Assistance Plan to include definitions under the Sechelt Indian Band Self-Government Act.

1990 - An Act to amend certain statutes to enable restraint of government expenditures, S.C. 1991, c.9.

- Effective April 1, 1990.

- Limited federal contributions under the Canada Assistance Plan for 1990-91 and 1991-92 to an annual growth of 5% (over a 1989-90 base year) for the provinces of Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia.

1991 - Budget Implementation Act, 1991

- Effective April 1, 1991.

- Extended the 5% limit on federal contributions to Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia until 1995.

SECTION 2

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

1956 - The Unemployment Assistance Act, S.C.1956, c.26

- Assented to July 11, 1956.
- Provided for federal reimbursement to a province of 50% of amount spent by province and its municipalities on financial assistance to needy unemployed persons subject to the following limitations:

  Reimbursement not applicable to payment made to the first 0.45% of population of a province;

  Reimbursement not applicable to payments of Mother's Allowances or persons normally considered eligible for Mother's Allowances;

  Reimbursement not applicable for payments to inmates of public and charitable institutions except for payments to needy unemployed persons in homes for special care;

  Reimbursement not made for payments to persons in receipt of federal and federal-provincial income maintenance benefits but applicable to relief payments made to such persons if unemployed and in need;

  Health care costs and costs of administration not shareable.

(By 1959 agreements had been signed with all ten provinces.)

1957 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Assistance Act, S.C.1957-58, c.20

- Effective January 1, 1958.
- Extended reimbursement to payments made to the first 0.45% of population.

1965 - Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act, S.C.1964-65, c.54, s.3 and Schedule I

- Assented to April 3, 1965.
- Provided for interim period (April 1, 1965, to March 31, 1970) during which a province might assume greater administrative and financial responsibility for certain federal-provincial programs (including Unemployment Assistance) and during which more permanent arrangements might be devised.
- Authorized supplementary agreements under which provinces participating in federal-provincial standing programs (including Unemployment Assistance) would assume full responsibility for administration and financing.

Unemployment Assistance (cont'd)

- Provided for financial adjustments through the Minister of Finance for programs under Schedule I in the form of a tax abatement of a specified percentage of federal individual income tax on the income of residents of the province, an associated equalization payment, and an operating cost adjustment, the latter to ensure that a province receive the equivalent of the amount which would otherwise have been paid under the former joint program.

1966 - The Canada Assistance Plan, S.C. 1966-67, c.45, s.18

- Effective April 1, 1966.
- Authorized the inclusion of Mother's Allowances in the Unemployment Assistance Act for cost-sharing purposes.

1970 - Appropriation Act No.1, 1970, S.C. 1969-70, c.24, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 5b

- Effective April 1, 1970.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to Unemployment Assistance to March 31, 1971. (12 months beyond the period specified in the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.)

1971 - Appropriation Act No.1, 1971, S.C. 1970-71, c.25, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 7c

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to Unemployment Assistance to March 31, 1972. (24 months beyond the period specified in the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.)

1972 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, 1972, S.C. 1972, c.8, s.34 and Schedule I

- Assented to March 29, 1972.
- Increased tax abatement associated with special welfare programs (Unemployment Assistance, Blind Persons, Disabled Persons and Canada Assistance Plan) from four to five individual tax points.
- Amended Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act 1964-65 to extend interim period to March 31, 1977.

SECTION 3

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

1935 - The Employment and Social Insurance Act, S.C.1935, c.38

- Assented to June 28, 1935.
- Provided for the establishment of an employment and social insurance commission to administer a national employment service and a program of insurance against unemployment for specified classes of persons.
- Specified that contributions be made by the employee and the employer.
- Provided for assistance during unemployment of persons in employments exempted from insurance coverage, and for training, in cooperation with the educational authorities, to rehabilitate unemployed persons.

1937 - Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (U.K.), (1937), A.C.355

- Pronounced *ultra vires* the Employment and Social Insurance Act, S.C.1935, c.38.

1940 - The British North America Act, 1940, 3-4 George, c.36 (U.K.) (R.S.C.1970, Appendix II, page 407)

- Effective July 10, 1940.
- Amended Section 91 of the British North America Act, 1867, to include unemployment insurance in classes of subjects under the exclusive legislative authority of the Parliament of Canada.

1940 - The Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1940, c.44

- Assented to August 7, 1940.
- Repealed the Employment and Social Insurance Act, 1935.
- Provided for a compulsory, contributory unemployment insurance program at the national level, and for the establishment of a national employment service to function in conjunction with the unemployment insurance operations.
- Provided for contributions to be payable from July 1, 1941 and for benefits to become payable on January 27, 1942.
- Provided that the Act provide coverage for all employed persons paid by the hour, day, or by piece rate, and all employees receiving $2,000 per year or less on the basis of weekly, monthly, yearly or commission rates.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Excluded the following employments:

  agriculture, horticulture;

  forestry, lumbering and logging (exclusive of wood-processing mills in operation more than 30 weeks in a year);

  fishing, hunting and trapping;

  transportation by water or air, and stevedoring;

  service in the Canadian armed forces or in a public police force;

  employment in the Government Services of Canada for employees appointed under the Civil Service Act or certified as permanent;

  employment in the government service of any province, unless the province agrees;

  municipal employment of a permanent nature;

  teaching, private duty nursing and private domestic service;

  employment as an agent paid by commission, fees or share of profits if this was not the main means of livelihood;

  certain director-officers of corporations;

  employment where the employed person was in the service of his/her spouse or where no wages were paid and the employee was the child of the employer;

  employment on other than an hourly, daily or piece rate earning more than $2,000 a year, if they so chose;

  employment in charitable institutions;

  employment where wages were paid for playing any game;

  casual or subsidiary employment;

  seasonal or part-time work.

- Provided statutory conditions for receipt of benefits:

  contributions had to have been paid for not less than 180 days during the immediately preceding two-year period;

  the claimant had to be unemployed, and capable of and available for work;

  the claimant had to attend, or have good reason for not attending, any courses approved by the Commission.

- Provided that a person may elect to continue to be covered and to make contributions after his/her earnings exceeded the ceiling for coverage if he/she had at least 260 daily contributions as an insured person.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Stipulated that in order to establish a claim for benefits the insured person:

  have at least 180 days of contribution in the two years preceding the establishment of the benefit year;

  have at least 60 days of contribution since the last day of benefit in the last preceding benefit year;

  had been unemployed on each day he/she claimed to have been unemployed;

  was capable of and available for work, but unable to obtain suitable employment;

  had attended, or had good reason not to have attended, any course approved by the Commission that he/she may have been sent to for the purpose of making him/her fit for employment.

- Provided for disqualification from benefit of an insured person participating in a labour stoppage, and for disqualification up to six weeks for those discharged for misconduct, or refusing to accept suitable employment or voluntarily leaving employment without just cause.

- Provided for banking of entitlement subject to withdrawals: the number of days of entitlement to be 1/5 the number of daily contributions in the previous five years, less 1/3 the number of days of benefit drawn in the previous three years.

- Set weekly benefits at a rate of about 34 times the employee's average contribution within the previous two years for a claimant without dependants ($4.08 to $12.24) and about 40 times the average contribution for a claimant with dependants ($4.80 to $14.40). The daily rate for this graduated system which related the benefit rate to workers' earnings and standard of living was one-sixth the weekly rate.

- Provided that benefits be non-taxable.

- Provided that contributions be paid into an Unemployment Insurance Fund, a special account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

- Set weekly contributions on a scale from nine cents to 36 cents from the employee according to his earning scale, and from 18 cents to 27 cents from his employer. This was an average of approximately 1.2 percent from each. (The employer paid the nine cent contribution on behalf of the employees earning less that 90 cents a day or under 16 years of age.) Effective July 1, 1941.

- Provided for a government contribution equal to 1/5 of total employee and employer contributions plus the costs of administration.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Provided that the Act be administered by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

1943 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1943-44, c. 31

- Effective September 1, 1943.
- Raised the earnings ceiling to $2,400 annually for persons on salary or commission, and removed it for persons paid on an hourly, daily, weekly, piece or mileage rate.
- Extended coverage to the following persons:

  all employees of the federal government not certified as permanent;

  those employed in connection with a public utility, regardless of permanence of employment;

  those employed in hospitals and charitable institutions (or to certain groups or classes) on the voluntary election of the employer, subject to the concurrence of the Unemployment Insurance Commission;

  those employed in Canada by a foreign or Commonwealth government on election by that government, subject to concurrence of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

- Changed the requirement in connection with a "subsequent year" from at least 60 daily contributions since the last day a claimant drew benefits in the previous benefit year to at least 60 daily contributions after commencement of the previous benefit year.

1945 - The Veterans Rehabilitation Act, S.C.1945 (2nd Session), c.35, ss.21,22

- Assented to December 18, 1945.
- Provided that a veteran who had completed 15 weeks of insurable employment within a period of 12 months be deemed to have been in insurable employment prior to the 15-week period for a period equal to his service in the armed forces after June 31, 1941, for the purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Act 1940.
- Provided for contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Fund out of moneys appropriated by Parliament of an amount equal to employer's and employee's contributions for the veteran's period of service.
- Permitted the waiving of the earnings ceiling of $2,400 for persons on salary or commission if they had 200 daily contributions within the last five years preceding the time their earnings rose above the ceiling.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

(By 1946 coverage had been extended to employment in transportation by air, professional nursing other than private duty nursing, and lumbering and logging in British Columbia.)

1946 - An act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940, S.C.1946, c.68

- Effective October 1, 1946.
- Extended coverage to persons employed in inland transportation by water and veterans including merchant seamen who had been in service since August 13, 1941.
- Empowered the Unemployment Insurance Commission to include in insured employment any groups or class of persons not employed under a contract of service, where their exclusion resulted in anomalies or injustices because of the similarity of their employment to that of insured persons.
- Exempted from coverage those people paid by the week when annual earnings exceeded $3,120. However people whose earnings took them out of coverage could elect to stay covered if they had 200 contribution weeks in the previous five years.
- Increased allowable earnings from $1 to $1.50 per day if earned in an occupation that could be carried on in addition to and outside the hours of normal occupation.
- Provided that in respect of the administration of the National Employment Service the Commission be responsible to the Minister of Labour.

1948 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940, S.C.1948, c.29

- Effective October 4, 1948.
- Increased the weekly contribution rate on a scale from nine cents to 42 cents from employer and employee. (The employer paid the nine cent contribution on behalf of the employee earning less than 90 cents a day or under 16 years of age.)
- Increased the maximum weekly benefit rates from $12.24 to $14.40 for claimants without dependants and from $14.40 to $18.30 for claimants with dependants.
- Raised the earnings ceiling from $2,400 to $3,120 for employees on salary or commission, by regulation.
- Discontinued benefits under the Unemployment Insurance Act to veterans for service after September 30, 1947.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Provided that the benefit rate be determined on the average of the most recent 180 days of contributions, rather than on all contributions in the two-year qualifying period.

1949 - The Statute Law Amendment (Newfoundland) Act, S.C.1949, c.6, s.38

- Effective April 1, 1949.
- Provided that residence and domicile in Newfoundland be deemed residence and domicile in Canada for the purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.
- Provided that service in the military forces of Newfoundland be deemed active service in the Canadian forces for the purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.

(By December, 1949, coverage had been extended to stevedores and temporary construction workers employed by hospitals and charitable institutions; real estate agents paid solely by commission had been exempted from coverage.)

1950 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1950, c.1

- Effective February 28, 1950.
- Provided for supplementary benefits to reflect greater difficulty of finding employment in Canada during winter months. Extended benefit from January 1 to March 31 for four classes of persons:

  a person whose benefit year had terminated since March 31 preceding date on which he claims supplementary benefit;

  a claimant unable to fulfil statutory conditions if contributions had been paid in respect of him for at least 90 days following March 31 preceding his claim;

  persons engaged in lumbering, logging, or any other employment insurable since January 1, 1950;

  a person engaged in any employment made insurable at any time during the 12 months preceding his claim.

- Fixed supplementary benefits at about 80 percent of ordinary benefits.
- Modified the special contribution requirement applying to a second or subsequent year to require at least 60 daily contributions in the period of one year preceding the claim or in the period since the previous benefit year began, whichever was the shorter, or at least 45 contributions in the period of six months preceding the claim or in the period since the previous benefit year began, whichever was the shorter. Effective July 3, 1950.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Reduced the number of earnings classes and equalized the employer and employee contribution rates, effective July 3, 1950.
- Increased contribution rates by one cent a day and by 20 percent of the additional contributions for the government, to pay the cost of supplementary benefits, effective July 3, 1950.
- Increased the maximum benefit for a claimant without a dependant from $14.40 to $16.20 per week, and for a claimant with a dependant from $18.30 to $21.00 per week, effective July 3, 1950.
- Raised the earnings ceiling for salaried workers and weekly wage earners to $4,800 annually, effective July 3, 1950.
- Increased the amount of allowable earnings from $1.50 to $2.00 per day, effective July 3, 1950.
- Reduced the waiting period from nine to eight days plus the first non-compensable day of claim.
- Provided that the Unemployment Insurance Commission may remove anomalies in the application of the Act to seasonal and part-time workers.
- Authorized the Commission to make regulations regarding benefit claims by married women.

(By July, 1951, coverage had been extended to those employed in lumbering and logging outside British Columbia, and security salesmen paid solely by commission had been exempted from coverage. By 1952 the waiting period had been reduced to five days.)

1953 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940, S.C.1952-53, c.51

- Effective August 3, 1953.
- Provided that no person entitled to receive benefits shall be disqualified by reason of illness, injury or quarantine.

1954 - An Act respecting Benefits for Members of the Canadian Forces, S.C.1953-54, c.65, s.12

- Assented to June 26, 1954.
- Extended unemployment insurance coverage to members of the Canadian forces enrolled since July 5, 1950, in the special force (for service in Korea).
- (By 1954 coverage had been extended to employment connected with landscape gardening.)

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

1955 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1955, c.1

- Assented to January 13, 1955.
- Increased the rate of supplementary benefit to the level of the ordinary benefit ($17 weekly for a claimant without a dependant and $24 weekly for a claimant with a dependant), effective January 10, 1955.
- Extended supplementary benefit period fifteen days from March 31 to April 15, effective January 1, 1955.

1955 - The Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1955, c.50

- Effective October 2, 1955.
- Repealed and replaced the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1940.
- Continued provisions under the previous Act for a national employment service to assist workers to find suitable employment and employers to find suitable workers, organized and maintained by the Unemployment Insurance Commission.
- Continued provision under the previous Act for equal weekly contributions from employer and employee, and Government contribution of 1/5 the aggregate of employer-employee contributions plus administration costs.
- Removed the earnings ceiling for persons employed in transportation by water on the Great Lakes and contiguous waters.
- Required claimant to have paid contributions in each of 30 weeks during the two years preceding the date of claim, at least eight of which were in the year immediately preceding the claim or since the beginning of the preceding benefit period, if less. (i.e., the new qualifying conditions were related to the number of contribution weeks rather than the number of daily contributions, and as little as one day of employment in each of 30 weeks might suffice.)
- Changed the benefit formula to provide one week of benefit for each two weeks of work in the two years preceding the benefit year. Contribution could not be used a second time if it was more than one year old.
- Reduced the maximum duration of benefit from 51 to 36 weeks and increased the minimum duration from six to fifteen weeks. (Maximum benefits required contributions for 72 weeks within the previous two years preceding the claim.)
- Changed the pattern of earnings classes and added three new earnings classes to the upper level to provide for higher benefits to employees in the higher earnings classes.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Established weekly benefits on a scale from $6 to $23 for a claimant without a dependant and from $8 to $30 for a claimant with a dependant (thus restoring the maximum benefit to approximately 50 percent of the average weekly wage).
- Established a scale of allowable earnings related to earnings classes and provided for reduction of benefit by the excess of earnings over the allowable amount; eliminated conditions that earnings must have been obtained in addition to and outside ordinary working hours.
- Replaced supplementary benefits with seasonal benefits payable for a maximum of 16 weeks during the period January 1 to April 15 to claimants who had:

  at least 15 weekly contributions preceding March 31; or

  a regular benefit period which terminated after April 15 preceding the date of claim for seasonal benefits.
- Established the rates for seasonal benefits at the same level as those for regular benefits.
- Increased the waiting period from five to six days and removed the non-compensable day.

  (In 1955 coverage was extended to employment in certain types of agriculture, horticulture and forestry, and municipal police forces if employment began after December 31, 1955.)

1956 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1956, c.50

- Effective September 30, 1956.
- Authorized regulations to extend coverage of unemployment insurance to fishermen, effective April 1, 1957.
- Eased conditions for qualifying for benefit on a second or subsequent claim from 30 to 24 weeks of contribution in the preceding 52, or since the beginning of the last preceding benefit period if that occurred more than 52 weeks before the claim.

1957 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1957-58, c.8

- Effective December 1, 1957.
- Extended the seasonal benefit period from December 1 to May 15.
- Increased the minimum duration from 10 to 13 weeks (when not cut off by termination of the seasonal benefit period) and increased the maximum duration from 16 to 24 weeks.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

(Married women's regulations were revoked at the end of 1957.)

1958 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1958, c.2

- Further extended the seasonal benefit period from May 15 to June 28 for 1958 only.

1959 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1959, c.36

- Effective September 27, 1959.
- Raised the earnings ceiling from $4,800 to $5,460 per annum.
- Increased contribution rates by 30 percent.
- Added two new earnings classes to the upper level which raised the maximum weekly benefit for a claimant without a dependant to $27 and for a claimant with a dependant to $36.
- Increased the maximum duration of benefit from 36 to 52 weeks.
- Provided that the benefit resulting from a second claim in a two-year period would not result in benefit more than one class lower than the first benefit.
- Increased allowable earnings to maximum of half the weekly benefit rate.
- Added imprisonment to list of contingencies for which the qualifying period may be extended. Other contingencies are illness, non-insurable employment, work stoppage due to labour disputes.

1964 - Appropriation Act No.10, 1964, S.C.1964-65, c.34, Schedule B, Department of Labour, Vote 7a

- Effective April 1, 1965.
- Authorized the transfer of the powers, duties and functions related to the employment services from the Unemployment Insurance Commission to the Minister of Labour.

1966 - Government Organization Act, 1966, S.C.1966-67, c.25, s.13

- Effective October 1, 1966.
- Transferred the powers, duties and functions related to the employment services from the Minister of Labour to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

1968 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, S.C.1967-68, c.33

- Effective June 30, 1968.
- Raised the earnings ceiling from $5,460 to $7,800.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Increased weekly rates of contributions to ten cents for those earning less than $20 weekly up to $1.40 for those earning more than $100 weekly.
- Increased the maximum weekly rates of benefit to $42 for a claimant without a dependant and to $53 for a claimant with a dependant.
- Increased allowable earnings for benefit recipients to maintain them at a maximum of half the weekly benefit rate.

1971 - The Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C.1970-71, c.48

- Some provisions effective June 27, 1971 and some on January 2, 1972.
- Repealed and replaced the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1955.
- Extended unemployment insurance coverage to all members of the labour force for whom an employer/employee relationship exists except persons with a substantial share in profits or who can control their own employment and persons with only a minor labour force attachment (thus covering approximately 96 percent of paid workers in the labour force).
- Excluded from coverage those in receipt of a Canada or Quebec Pension Plan pension or over 70 years of age.
- Eliminated the salary ceiling and provided that contributions be levied on the first $150 per week of salary adjustable to reflect changes in average income.
- To qualify for benefits under the new scheme the insured workers had to meet two basic requirements:

    eight or more insurable weeks in the qualifying period, which was the shorter of the period of 52 weeks before the establishment of a benefit period or the period since the last benefit period began;

    an interruption of earnings from employment resulting in seven or more consecutive days without work and earnings.
- When work was stopped because of illness, injury, quarantine or pregnancy, an interruption of earnings occurred when weekly earnings dropped below two thirds of the worker's normal weekly insurable earnings (related to the basic benefit rate under the new plan).
- Required at least 20 insurable weeks for the new sickness, maternity and retirement benefits.
- Provided that benefit duration be determined by the number of weeks of insurable employment and regional and national unemployment levels.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Provided for a maximum of 51 weeks of benefits within a period, embodied in two initial phases (initial benefits and re-established initial benefits) and three extended phases (labour force attachment benefit, national unemployment rate benefit, and regional unemployment rate benefit).
- Provided for the advance payment of initial benefits in certain circumstances.
- Increased the benefit rate to 2/3 of average insured earnings for a single person, and to 3/4 of average insured earnings for those in an initial benefit period whose earnings in their qualifying period were equal to or less than one third of the maximum weekly insurable earnings ($50 in 1972) and for those in an extended benefit period with dependants. The minimum benefit was to be $20 and the maximum $100 per week, effective July 1, 1971.
- Provided for the automatic indexing of the maximum weekly benefit by indexing the insurable earnings ceiling.
- Provided that benefits be taxable.
- Provided for allowable earnings at 25 percent of the benefit rate, with no allowable earnings from employment in the waiting period.
- Fixed the waiting period at two weeks.
- Provided that employer/employee contributions cover the cost of regular benefits when the national unemployment rate is lower than four percent, administration costs (on a basis of approximately 57 percent from the employer and 43 percent from the employee contributions), and the costs of the special new benefits.
- Included provisions for the establishment of a system of experience rating for employers.
- Provided that the government pay the cost of:

  regular benefits in the initial and re-established initial benefit periods attributed to a national unemployment rate over four percent;

  all labour force, national and regional extended benefits;

  all regular benefits paid to claimant/trainees granted extensions in benefits after approved training;

  benefits for self-employed fishermen (premium revenues collected for insurable employment in fishing were credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and all fishermen's benefits were charged to it.)
- Provided for new special benefits for persons with 20 or more weeks of insured earnings:

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

sickness benefits to a maximum of 15 weeks for those whose earnings are interrupted by illness, injury or quarantine;

maternity benefits for up to 15 weeks commencing eight weeks before the expected date of confinement and terminating six weeks after the actual date of birth;

retirement benefits (a lump sum payment equal to three weeks of benefit) for persons aged 65 to 70 receiving pensions from the Canada or Quebec Pension Plans, and to persons over 70 years of age.

- Provided for the reduction of premiums in respect of sickness and/or maternity benefits payable under provincial law or employer's plans.
- Provided for a disqualification for a maximum of three weeks only for these actions, if taken without just cause:

voluntarily leaving employment;

loss of employment for misconduct;

refusal to apply for or accept suitable employment;

neglect to take an opportunity for suitable employment;

failure to carry out any written direction of the Commission given to assist the claimant to find suitable employment;

failure to attend a claimant assistance interview;

failure to attend a course of instruction or training to which the claimant was referred by the Commission.

- Provided for a new legislative category of penalty called disentitlement which included the remaining disqualifications under the 1955 Act as well as new ones; disentitlement resulted in a postponement of benefits for a definite or indefinite period until the conditions giving rise to it no longer existed.

1973 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C.1973-74, c.2

- Effective February 8, 1973.
- Provided that the sum authorized for the purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Act in the fiscal year ending March 31, 1973, be deemed an advance and not an appropriation, and repayment be charged to the Unemployment Insurance Account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

1975 - The Statute Law (Status of Women) Amendment Act, 1974, S.C. 1974-75-76, c.66, s.22

- Effective January 30, 1976.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Provided for greater flexibility in the provision of maternity benefits by allowing up to 15 consecutive weeks of benefits in a period that could begin as early as eight weeks before the expected date of confinement, and end as late as 17 weeks after the actual date of confinement.

1975 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C. 1974-75-76, c.80

- Effective January 1, 1976.
- Withdrew coverage for those aged 65 to 70 years except for the three weeks of benefit payable as a retirement benefit.
- Reduced the special benefit rate of 3/4 of average weekly insurable earnings for claimants eligible for extended benefits with dependants (low-income claimants) to the standard benefit rate of 2/3 of average weekly insurable earnings.
- Extended the qualifying period to a maximum of 104 weeks to people incapable of work because of sickness, disability or quarantine, people getting workers' compensation, claimants on approved training, and inmates of penal institutions.
- Extended the benefit period to 104 weeks for people on workers' compensation and for inmates of penal institutions. (Sickness, disability, quarantine and approved training were not included as reasons for benefit period extensions because benefits were payable in these cases.)
- Reduced the government's contribution to the Commission's income from the excess cost of initial benefits due to a national unemployment rate greater than four percent to the amount by which the average unemployment for the year exceeds the average rate of unemployment over the eight-year period ending on the previous June 30.
- Increased the maximum period of disqualification from three to six weeks for those who voluntarily quit their jobs without cause, who are fired for misconduct, or who refuse a suitable job offer.
- Revoked the provisions for advance payment of benefits.
- Revoked the provisions for experience ratings.
- Made sickness benefits more flexible by extending the period during which the 15 weeks could be drawn from the initial phase only (first 29 weeks) to the initial and re-established initial phases (first 39 weeks).
- Eliminated the limitation whereby the receipt of regular benefits resulted in a reduction of entitlement to sickness benefits. Under the new provision, up to 10 weeks of regular benefits could be drawn in the two initial phases without reducing entitlement to sickness benefits.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

- Allowed claimants to voluntarily end an existing claim and establish a new one if it was in their interest.
- Extended coverage to individual sponsors of certain government job creation programs.

1977 - Unemployment Insurance Entitlements Adjustment Act, S.C. 1976-77, c.11

- Effective May 12, 1977, to May 12, 1979.
- Authorized the Unemployment Insurance Commission to reinstate payments to claimants aged 65 and over and to those formerly eligible for the dependency rate of benefits whose benefit had been terminated or reduced by an Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C. 1974-75-76, c.80.
- Stipulated that such reinstatement of benefits apply only to those who had acquired rights to such benefits prior to January 4, 1976.

1977 - Employment and Immigration Reorganization Act, S.C. 1976-77, c.54

- Effective August 15, 1977.
- Established the Department of Employment and Immigration and the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.
- Established the Canada Employment and Immigration Advisory Council.
- The following housekeeping amendments were brought into effect immediately to:

  stipulate that the striking of premium rates would be subject to Governor in Council approval;

  facilitate the determination of administrative costs as prescribed in the regulations;

  authorize the repeal of experience rating;

  stipulate that chairpersons of Boards of Referees cease to hold office at the age of 75, and authority to remove them for just cause;

  ensure that the new Commission would not be prohibited from carrying out special programs to eliminate, reduce or prevent disadvantages suffered by any group of people.
- Amended the Unemployment Insurance Act to:

  a) Increase the minimum qualifying requirement from eight weeks to a variable entrance requirement of from 10 to 14 weeks of insurable employment in the previous 52 weeks, depending on the unemployment rate in the region where the claimant lives, effective December 4, 1977;

b) Reduce from five to three the number of phases of which the benefit structure is made up, effective September 11, 1977. The three phases are:

1) up to 25 weeks of initial benefit calculated on the basis of one week of benefit for every week of insurable employment;

2) up to 13 weeks of extended benefits calculated on the basis of one week of benefit for every two weeks of insurable employment over 25 weeks;

3) up to 32 weeks of extended benefits, based on regional unemployment rates.

(For the five phases previously in force see page 3.12 paragraph 1.)

c) Change the maximum number of weeks of paid benefit from 51 weeks to 50 weeks in a 52-week period;

d) Authorize developmental uses of unemployment insurance funds for claimants undertaking approved training, and participating in approved job creation projects and work sharing arrangements;

e) Eliminate the four-week rules for termination of claim, for claims under both the five and three-phase structures;

f) Base regional extended benefits on where the claimant lived at the beginning of the benefit phase.

1978 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971 S.C. 1798-79, c.7

- Provided regulatory authority for stipulating that hourly paid and salaried employees would have to work a minimum of 20 hours a week and earn 30 percent of the maximum weekly insurable earnings to be insurable (effective January 1, 1979).

- Provided for a higher entrance requirement for people just entering or re-entering the labour force, i.e., anyone with less than 14 insurable weeks, benefit weeks or other attachment to the labour force in the year preceding the qualifying period would have to work 20 weeks in insurable employment in the qualifying period to be eligible (effective July 1, 1979).

- Provided for a higher entrance requirement for persons with repeat claims, i.e., anyone who had received 14 or more weeks of benefit in the qualifying period would have to have the number of insurable weeks in the variable entrance requirement (VER) plus up to 6 additional weeks (one week for each week of benefit received in excess of the VER); the provision would not apply in cases where the applicable regional unemployment rate exceeded 11.5 percent (effective July 1, 1979).

- Reduced the benefit rate for all claimants from 66 2/3 percent of average weekly insurable earnings to 60 percent (effective January 1, 1979).
- Amended the financing arrangements such that the cost of labour force extended benefits would be shared by the public and private sectors in the same way as the cost of initial regular benefits (effective January 1, 1979).
- Provided for repayment of 30 percent on part of the Unemployment Insurance benefits received by people whose annual net income, including Unemployment Insurance benefits, exceeds 1.5 times the maximum yearly insurable earnings (effective in the 1979 and subsequent taxation years).
- Increased the minimum fine under the Act for giving false or misleading information from $25 to $200 (effective January 1, 1979).
- Provided for exclusion of Unemployment Insurance job creation benefits from the 25 percent allowable earnings rate.

1980 - Adjustment of Accounts Act, S.C.1980, c.17

- Effective April 1, 1980.
- Required the government cost of paying benefits for the Unemployment Insurance Act to be credited to the UI Account from the Consolidated Revenue Fund in every fiscal year.

1980 - An Act to Amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C.1980, c.35

- Effective July 1, 1980.
- Provided for an 18-month extension in the period during which the variable entrance requirement (VER) would operate, i.e., instead of lapsing in December 1980, the VER would expire in June 1982 unless otherwise extended by Parliament.
- Amended the program financing arrangements such that private sector premiums would pay the full cost of initial regular and labour force extended benefits and the federal government would continue to pay the full cost of regional extended benefits.

Unemployment Insurance (cont.)

1982 - An Act to Amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, (No. 2) S.C. 1980-81-82, c.97

- Effective June 3, 1982.
- Provided for an additional 12 month extension in the period during which the variable entrance requirement (VER) would operate i.e., instead of expiring in June 1982 the VER would expire in June 1983.

1983 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, (No.3), S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.150

- Assented to June 3, 1983.
- Provided for extension of the VER from June 1983 to June 1985, effective June 4, 1983. (The number of insured weeks needed to qualify varies according to the level of unemployment in each economic region.)
- Authorized the restriction or prohibition of benefit payments during annual vacation periods for certain persons such as teachers and boat captains, effective June 4, 1983.
- Authorized the establishment and maintenance of a separate benefit stream for self-employed fishermen, effective June 4, 1983.
- Revoked the maternity benefits "magic-10" rule which had required at least 10 weeks of insurable employment after the beginning of pregnancy, effective January 1, 1984.
- Revoked Section 46 of the Act which had prohibited the payment of regular benefits to pregnant women (which had resulted in pregnant women with less than the 20 insured weeks needed to qualify for maternity benefits not receiving benefits of any kind. (Effective January 1, 1984).
- Provided for the payment of 15 weeks of benefits to adoptive parents, effective January 1, 1984.

1983 - An Act respecting the Tax Court of Canada and to amend the Federal Court Act, the Judges Act and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.158, Part IV

- Effective September 30, 1983.
- Amended the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, to change the hearing of insurability appeals (National Revenue cases) from the Umpire or the Pension Appeals Board to the new Tax Court of Canada.

1985 - An act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, S.C. 1985, c.18

- Effective June 2, 1985.

- Provided for extension of the Variable Entrance Requirement (VER) from June 1, 1985, until December 31, 1986. (The number of insured weeks needed to qualify varies according to the level of unemployment in each economic region).

- Provided that the premium rate would remain at the 1985 level (2.35 percent for employees) until December 31, 1986.

1986 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act and related statutes and to amend the Canada Pension Plan, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, the Financial Administration Act and the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act, S.C. 1986, c.6.

- Effective January 1, 1987.

- Amended section 80 of the Unemployment Insurance Act and changed how investigations and information gathering are done.

An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

- Effective January 1, 1987.

- Extended the Variable Entrance Requirement (VER) until January 3, 1988.

- Authorized that the UI premium rate would remain at the 1985 and 1986 level until December 31, 1987.

1987 - An Act respecting the treatment of pension payments in determining certain unemployment insurance benefit entitlements and to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

- Effective April 5, 1987.

- Authorized the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission (CEIC) to pay full Unemployment Insurance benefits to claimants receiving a pension if their Unemployment Insurance claim was based on employment obtained after the start of the pension or if the Unemployment Insurance claim started before January 5, 1986. These benefits were retroactive to January 5, 1986.

- Authorized CEIC to extend the qualifying or benefit period of any claim for unemployment insurance benefits affected by a severance payment.

An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

- Effective January 4, 1988.

- Extended the Variable Entrance Requirement (VER) until January 3, 1989.

- An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, a related Act, the Canada Pension Plan and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

- Effective December 17, 1987.

- Required employers to remit the deductions they make for their employees on account of the Unemployment Insurance fund twice a month.

1988 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

- Effective March 23, 1988 and retroactive to March 23, 1987.

- Allowed mothers who were not able to take their newborns home immediately after birth to defer their 15 weeks of maternity leave until after the baby is released from the hospital.

- Extended maternity benefits to a father who, because of the death or disability of the mother, must become the primary caregiver.

- An Act to correct certain anomalies, inconsistencies, archaisms and errors and to deal with other matters of a non-controversial and uncomplicated nature in the Statutes of Canada.

- Effective February 4, 1988.

- Minor wording changes on certified mail notices and employment of officer under the Act.

- An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977 and certain related Acts, c.55.

- Effective September 13, 1988.

- Imposed interest and penalty on an employer who owes money to the Receiver General under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

1989 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971.

- Effective January 4, 1989.

- Extended the Variable Entrance Requirement (VER) until January 6, 1990.

An Act to amend the Tax Court of Canada Act and other Acts in consequence thereof

- Assented to September 22, 1988 but brought into force by separate act January 1, 1991.

- Gives the Tax Court of Canada final authority on appeals on matter of insurability of employment.

1990 - An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Employment and Immigration Department and Commission Act, S.C. 1991, c.40.

- Effective November 18, 1990.

- Increased the Minimum Entrance Requirements from 10 - 14 weeks to 10 - 20 weeks depending upon regional unemployment rates.

- Eliminated the repeater provision for seasonal workers.

- Changed benefit period structure to a single phase.

- Reduced the maximum benefit entitlement except in the areas with the highest unemployment rates.

- Created a multi-tiered system of special benefits which includes 15 weeks of maternity benefits in the period surrounding the birth of a child; 10 weeks of parental benefits, available to both natural and adoptive parents, either mother or father, or shared between them as they deem appropriate. Parental benefits may be extended to 15 weeks in cases where the child is six months or older upon arrival at the claimant's home and suffers from a physical, psychological or emotional condition. These benefits can also be shared.

- Special benefits can be collected at any time during the claim.

- Extended Unemployment Insurance to workers aged 65 and older. Premiums are collected and benefits allowed in the same manner as for those under age 65. This amendment was retroactive to September 23, 1988.

- Eliminated the 3-week lump sum retirement payment.

- Clarified Unemployment Insurance coverage for workers who are related to their employers. Various factors, such as rate of pay, conditions of employment, length, type and importance of their work, will be used to determine whether or not their employment is insurable.

- Defined and gave examples of the term "just cause" in order to determine whether or not a penalty should be imposed upon workers who quit their jobs. Workers who quit their jobs without "just cause", are fired for misconduct or refuse to take new jobs are subject to a 7 to 12 week penalty and will have their benefits reduced to 50% of their average weekly insurable earnings. The lower benefit rate will continue throughout the entire benefit claim.

- An Act to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act.

- Effective January 4, 1990.

- Extended the Variable Entrance Requirement (VER) until January 6, 1991.

- An Act to amend the Federal Court Act, the Crown Liability Act, the Supreme Court Act and other Acts in consequence thereof.

- Assented to March 29, 1990.

- Minor wording change to clarify that Federal Court only has juridical review powers over an Umpire's decision.

SECTION 4

BLIND PERSONS

BLIND PERSONS

1937 - An Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1937, c.13

- *Assented to March 31, 1937.
- Provided for pensions for blind persons aged 40 or over.
- Set the maximum blind pension at $20 monthly ($240 annually), the same as the Old Age pension.
- Set the total allowable income for a blind person, including the pension, at:

Single blind person	$440
Married blind person or widow (or widower) with at least one child	$640
Married couple (both blind pensioners)	$880

1943 - The War Appropriations Act No.3, S.C.1943-44, c.32

- Assented to July 24, 1943.
- Covered, under general provisions, payment of the increase in blind pensions.
- Increased maximum blind pensions from $20 monthly ($240 annually) to $25 monthly ($300 annually) by Order in Council, P.C.6367 under the authority of the War Measures Act, dated August 10, 1943. The increase, a special war supplement of $5 a month, was charged against the War Appropriation allotment. (Announcement was by the Honourable J.L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, in the House of Commons, July 24, 1943. See also Public Accounts 1943-44, p. CC.12.)

1944 - Order in Council, P.C.3377, August 5, 1944

- Increased the total allowable income, including the pension, as follows:

Single blind person	$500
Married blind person or widow (or widower) with at least one child	$700
Married couple (both blind pensioners)	$1,000

(Announcement was made by the Honourable J.L. Ilsley in the House of Commons, May 29, 1944.)

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*The date on which an Act was assented to is used where no effective date is specified in the Act.

Blind Persons (cont.)

1947 - An Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1947, c.67, s.5

- Effective May 1, 1947.
- Reduced the eligible age for Blind pensions from 40 to 21.
- Increased the maximum Blind pensions from $25 monthly ($300 annually) to $30 monthly ($360 annually).

Increased the total allowable income, including the pension, as follows:

Single blind person	$720
Single blind person with dependent child	$920
Married couple, one spouse sighted	$1,200
Married couple, both blind	$1,320

1949 - An Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1949, c.19

- Effective May 1, 1949.
- Increased the maximum Blind pensions from $30 monthly ($360 annually) to $40 monthly ($480 annually).

1951 - The Blind Persons Act, S.C.1951, c.38

- Effective January 1, 1952.
- Cost of allowances to blind persons aged 21 to 69 shared with provinces on 75-25 basis.
- Residence requirement of 10 years immediately preceding date of proposed commencement of allowances. Persons not able to meet this requirement must have been present in Canada prior to the 10-year period for periods totalling twice the length of the gaps in the 10-year period.
- Allowance not payable to a recipient of an Old Age Security pension, Old Age Assistance, War Veterans Allowance, or a pension for blindness under the (War) Pensions Act.
- Person to be deemed to be "blind" only when his visual acuity, after correction through the use of proper refractive lenses, was not more than 6/60 Snellen or the field of vision in each eye was reduced to less than 10 degrees.

(The definition of blindness was amended in 1960 by Blind Persons Regulations, P.C. 1960-1716, dated December 16, 1960, SOR/60-565, to mean visual acuity in both eyes with proper refractive lenses 20/200 (6/60) or less with Snellen Chart or equivalent, or if the field of vision in both eyes is of a diameter of less than twenty degrees.

Blind Persons (cont.)

The definition was amended again in 1962 by Blind Persons Regulations, P.C. 1962-1038, dated July 25, 1962, SOR/62-273, to mean visual acuity in both eyes with proper refractive lenses of 20/200 (6/60) or less with Snellen Chart or equivalent, or the greatest diameter of the field of vision in both eyes of less than twenty degrees.)

- Set the maximum allowance at $40 monthly ($480 annually). (The same as for a blind person under the repealed Old Age Pensions Act.)
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$840($70 monthly)
Single person with dependent child	$1,040($86.67 monthly)
Married couple (one spouse sighted)	$1,320($110 monthly)
Married couple (both spouses blind)	$1,440($120 monthly)

- Following provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act and Regulations were not carried over to the Blind Persons legislation:
  - (i) Residence requirement of 20 years (changed to 10 years);
  - (ii) Exclusion of Indians;
  - (iii) Requirement that recovery must be made from estate of deceased pensioners;
  - (iv) Regulation by which the pension was suspended when the pensioner was in a public mental institution as a public charge.

1955 - An Act to amend the Blind Persons Act, S.C.1955, c.26

- Assented to June 28, 1955.
- Reduced the eligible age for a blind allowance from 21 to 18.
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$960($80 monthly)
Single person with dependent child	$1,160($96.67 monthly)
Married couple (one spouse sighted)	$1,560($130 monthly)
Married couple (both blind)	$1,680($140 monthly)

1957 - The Appropriation Act No.4, 1957, c.14, ss. 10 & 11

- Effective July 1, 1957.
- Increased maximum blind allowance from $40 monthly ($480 annually) to $46 monthly ($552 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,080($90 monthly)
Single person with dependent child	$1,560($130 monthly)
Married couple (one spouse sighted)	$1,740($145 monthly)
Married couple (both blind)	$1,860($155 monthly)

Blind Persons (cont.)

1957 - An Act to amend the Blind Persons Act, S.C.1957-58, c.4

- Effective November 1, 1957.
- Increased maximum allowance from $46 monthly ($552 annually) to $55 monthly ($660 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,200($100 monthly)
Single person with dependent child	$1,680($140 monthly)
Married couple (one spouse sighted)	$1,980($165 monthly)
Married couple (both spouses blind)	$2,100($175 monthly)

1962 - An Act to amend the Blind Persons Act, S.C.1962, c.2

- Effective February 1, 1962.
- Increased maximum allowance from $55 monthly ($660 annually) to $65 monthly ($780 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance not to exceed:

Single person	$1,380($115 monthly)
Single person with dependent child	$1,860($155 monthly)
Married couple (one spouse sighted)	$2,340($195 monthly)
Married couple (both spouses blind)	$2,460($205 monthly)

1963 - An Act to amend the Old Age Assistance Act, the Disabled Persons Act, and the Blind Persons Act, S.C.1963, c.26

- Effective December 1, 1963.
- Increased maximum blind allowance from $65 monthly ($780 annually) to $75 monthly ($900 annually).
- Total allowable income including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,500($125 monthly)
Single person with dependent child	$1,980($165 monthly)
Married couple (one spouse sighted)	$2,580($215 monthly)
Married couple (both spouses blind)	$2,700($225 monthly)

1965 - The Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act, S.C.1964-65, c.54, s.3 and Schedule I

- Assented to April 3, 1965.
- Provided for interim period (April 1, 1965 to March 31, 1970) during which a province might assume greater administrative and financial responsibility for special welfare programs (including Blind Persons Allowances) and during which more permanent arrangements might be devised.

Blind Persons (cont.)

- Authorized supplementary agreements under which provinces participating in federal-provincial standing programs (including Blind Persons Allowances) would assume full responsibility for administration and financing.
- Provided for financial adjustments through the Minister of Finance for programs under Schedule I in the form of a tax abatement of a specified percentage of federal individual income tax on the income of residents of the province, an associated equalization payment, and an operating cost adjustment, the latter to ensure that a province receive the equivalent of the amount which would otherwise have been paid under the former joint program.

1966 - The Canada Assistance Plan, S.C.1966-67, c.45, s.24

- Effective April 1, 1966.
- Amended Blind Persons Act to allow provinces to discontinue receipt of applications under Blind Persons Act, and to provide assistance under general programs with federal reimbursement under C.A.P.

1970 - Appropriation Act No. 1, 1970, S.C.1969-70, c.24 Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 5b

- Effective April 1, 1970.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to blind persons to March 31, 1971 (12 months beyond period specified in Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act).

1971 - Appropriation Act No.1, 1971, S.C.1970-71, c.25, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 7c

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Authorized continuation of federal payments and agreements relating to blind persons to March 31, 1972 (24 months beyond period specified in Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act).

1972 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, 1972, S.C.1972, c.8. s.34 and Schedule I

- Assented to March 29, 1972.
- Increased tax abatement associated with special welfare programs (Blind Persons, Disabled Persons, Unemployment Assistance and Canada Assistance Plan) from four to five individual tax points.
- Amended the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act 1964-65 to extend the interim period to March 31, 1977.

Blind Persons (cont.)

1983 - An Act to repeal certain Statutes that have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c. 159

- Assented to June 29, 1983.
- Repealed the Blind Persons Act. S.C. 1951 c.38.

SECTION 5

DISABLED PERSONS

DISABLED PERSONS

(See also Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons)

1953 - Order-in-Council, P.C.1953-471, dated March 31, 1953

- Extended the National Health Grants Program to Medical Rehabilitation.

1954 - The Disabled Persons Act, S.C.1953-54, c.55

- Effective January 1, 1955.
- Authorized agreements with the provincial governments for sharing on a 50-50 basis the cost of allowances to permanently and totally disabled persons aged 18 to 69.
- Definition of total and permanent disability was by regulation as follows:

"(2) For the purposes of the Act and these regulations, a person shall be deemed to be totally and permanently disabled only when

(a) the person is suffering from a major physiological, anatomical or psychological impairment, verified by objective medical findings;

(b) the impairment is likely to continue without substantial improvement during the lifetime of the person and is one to which the concept of cure cannot be applied; and

(c) as a result of such impairment, the person is severely limited in activities pertaining to self-care and normal living, such as being

(i) bedridden or chairfast,
(ii) unable to leave home without being accompanied by another person,
(iii) normally in need of care and supervision for one or more of such self-care activities as dressing, body hygiene or eating,
(iv) unable to perform such routine activities as climbing a short stairway or walking a limited distance on a level surface, or
(v) certified by a qualified physician to be under medical instructions to forebear from activities of the kind mentioned in subparagraph (iv).

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), a person shall be deemed not to be totally and permanently disabled where, in respect of that person, a favourable rehabilitation prognosis is obtained, or approved therapeutic measures are recommended, by the provincial authority, and the requisite rehabilitation services or therapeutic measures are available."

Disabled Persons (cont.)

(The definition of total and permanent disablement was amended in 1957 by Disabled Persons Regulations, P.C. 1957-715, dated May 27, 1957, SOR/57-191 to a major physiological, anatomical or psychological impairment verified by objective medical findings which is likely to continue indefinitely without substantial improvement and, as a result thereof, severe limitation in activities pertaining to normal living.)

- Residence requirement of 10 years immediately preceding the date of the proposed commencement of allowances. Persons not able to meet this requirement must have been present in Canada prior to the 10-year period for periods totalling twice the length of the gaps in the 10-year period.
- Allowance not payable to a recipient of an Old Age Security pension, Old Age Assistance, a Blind Person's Allowance, or a Mother's Allowance.
- Maximum allowance: $40 monthly ($480 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$720($60 monthly)
Married couple	$1,200($100 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$1,320($110 monthly)

- All agreements under the Act between the federal and the provincial and territorial governments were effective by October 1, 1956.

1957 - The Appropriation Act, No.4, 1957, S.C.1957, c.14, s.10,11

- Effective July 1, 1957.
- Increased maximum allowance from $40 monthly ($480 annually) to $46 monthly ($552 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$840($70 monthly)
Married couple	$1,380($115 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$1,740($145 monthly)

1957 - An Act to amend the Disabled Persons Act, S.C.1957-58, c.5

- Effective November 1, 1957.
- Increased maximum allowance from $46 monthly ($552 annually) to $55 monthly ($660 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$960($80 monthly)
Married couple	$1,620($135 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$1,980($165 monthly)

Disabled Persons (cont.)

1962 - An Act to amend the Disabled Persons Act, S.C.1962, c.3

Effective February 1, 1962.

- Increased maximum allowance from $55 monthly ($660 annually) to $65 monthly ($780 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,140($95 monthly)
Married couple	$1,980($165 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$2,340($195 monthly)

1963 - An Act to amend the Old Age Assistance Act, the Disabled Persons Act and the Blind Persons Act, S.C.1963, c.26

- Effective December 1, 1963.
- Increased maximum disabled persons allowance from $65 monthly ($780 annually) to $75 monthly ($900 annually).
- Total allowable income, including allowance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,260($105 monthly)
Married couple	$2,220($185 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$2,580($215 monthly)

1965 - Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act, S.C.1964-65, c.54, s.3 and Schedule I

- Assented to April 3, 1965.
- Provided for interim period (April 1, 1965 to March 31, 1970) during which a province might assume greater administrative and financial responsibility for certain federal-provincial programs (including Disabled Persons payments) and during which more permanent arrangements might be devised.
- Authorized supplementary agreements under which provinces participating in federal-provincial standing programs (including Disabled Persons payments) would assume full responsibility for administration and financing.
- Provided for financial adjustments through the Minister of Finance for programs under Schedule I in the form of a tax abatement of a specified percentage of federal individual income tax on the income of residents of the province, an associated equalization payment, and an operating cost adjustment, the latter to ensure that a province receive the equivalent of the amount which would otherwise have been paid under the former joint program.

Disabled Persons (cont.)

1966 - The Canada Assistance Plan, S.C. 1966-67, c.45, s.26

- Effective April 1, 1966.
- Amended Disabled Persons Act to allow provinces to discontinue receipt of applications under Disabled Persons Act and to provide assistance under general programs with federal reimbursement under C.A.P.

1970 - Appropriation Act No.1, 1970, S.C. 1969-70, c.24, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 5b

- Effective April 1, 1970.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to disabled persons to March 31, 1971 (12 months beyond period specified in Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act).

1971 - Appropriation Act No.1, 1971, S.C. 1970-71, c.25, Schedule, Department of Finance, Vote 7c

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to disabled persons to March 31, 1972 (24 months beyond period specified in Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act).

1972 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, 1972, S.C. 1972, c.8, s.34 and Schedule I

- Assented to March 29, 1972.
- Increased tax abatement associated with special welfare programs (Disabled Persons, Blind Persons, Unemployment Assistance and Canada Assistance Plan) from four to five individual tax points.
- Amended the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act 1964-65 to extend the interim period to March 31, 1977.

1983 - An Act to repeal certain Statutes that have ceased to be in force or have become unnecessary, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.159

- Assented to June 29, 1983.
- Repealed the Disabled Persons Act, S.C. 1953-54, c.55.

SECTION 6

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PERSONS

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF DISABLED PERSONS

(See also Disabled Persons)

1951 - Order-in-Council, P.C.6806, dated December 29, 1951

- Established a 37-member National Advisory Committee on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons to advise on matters related to the rehabilitation of handicapped civilians.
- Specified that membership of the Committee should consist of representatives from each of the following:
    - a) provincial governments
    - b) Departments of Labour, National Health and Welfare, and Veterans'Affairs
    - c) health and welfare voluntary agencies (6)
    - d) medical profession (6)
    - e) organized employers (4)
    - f) organized labour (4)
    - g) universities and other interested groups (4)

1953 - Order-in-Council, P.C.1953-471, dated March 31, 1953

- Extended the National Health Grants Program to Medical Rehabilitation.

1953 - Order-in-Council, P.C.1953-1087, dated July 6, 1953

- Authorized the Minister of Labour to enter into agreements with the provinces to provide for the co-ordination and development of activities for the rehabilitation of disabled persons.
- Specified that the federal allotment to each province should not exceed $15,000 for 1953-54, and thereafter an amount approved by the Minister of Labour out of monies appropriated by Parliament to the Department of Labour for the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

1961 - Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, S.C.1960-61, c.26

- Effective December 1, 1961.
- Authorized agreements with the provinces for federal sharing of 50 percent of costs incurred in carrying out programs of vocational rehabilitation for disabled persons.
- Authorized the Minister of Labour to coordinate federal activities in the field of vocational rehabilitation of disabled persons in cooperation with the Minister of National Health and Welfare and other Ministers carrying out activities in this field.

Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons (cont.)

- Authorized the Minister of Labour to undertake research in respect of disabled persons.
- Established a 25-member National Advisory Council on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons appointed by the Governor in Council to act in an advisory capacity to the Minister of Labour in the administration of the Act.

1966 - Government Organization Act, 1966, S.C.1966-67, c.25, s.39 and Schedule A, Part III

- Effective October 1, 1966.
- Transferred the administration of the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

1967 - Canada Manpower and Immigration Council Act, S.C.1967-68, c.13, s.25

- Assented to December 21, 1967.
- Dissolved the National Advisory Council on the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons.
- Established a 12-member Advisory Board on the Coordination of Rehabilitation Services for Disabled Persons to consider and report to the Canada Manpower and Immigration Council on matters relating to the coordination of rehabilitation services for disabled persons.

1973 - Order-in-Council, P.C.1973-752, dated March 27, 1973, SI/73-22

- Effective April 1, 1973.
- Transferred to the Minister of National Health and Welfare the powers, duties and functions of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration under the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Act, pursuant to the Public Service Rearrangement and Transfer of Duties Act (R.S.C.1970, c.P-34).

SECTION 7

CANADA PENSION PLAN

CANADA PENSION PLAN

1964 - The British North America Act, 1964, 12-13 Elizabeth II, c.73 (U.K.); (R.S.C.1970, Appendix II, page 453)

- Effective July 31, 1964.
- Amended the British North America Act 1867 to authorize the Parliament of Canada under Section 94A to make laws in relation to supplementary benefits including survivors' and disability benefits irrespective of age, in addition to old age pensions previously authorized.
- Stipulated that no such law shall affect the operation of any law, present or future, of a provincial legislature in relation to any such matter.

1965 - The Canada Pension Plan, S.C.1964-65, c.51

- Effective January 1, 1966. Collection of contributions to begin January 1, 1966, retirement pensions to become payable in January 1967, survivors' benefits in February 1968, and disability benefits in February 1970.
- Provided for a compulsory, contributory social insurance program under which retirement pensions, disability benefits and survivors' benefits, would be payable, and which would cover most members of the labour force.
- Provided that the Plan would operate in all of Canada except in a province which had a comparable plan.
- Set retirement pensions at 25 percent of average adjusted earnings. For disabled contributors the pension to be the flat-rate component plus 75 percent of the retirement pension computed as if the contributor had reached age 65 at disability. Pensions for widows and disabled widowers under age 65 to be flat-rate component plus 37.5 percent of an imputed retirement pension, and benefits for widows and disabled widowers aged 65 or more to be 60 percent of the deceased contributor's retirement pension.
- Provided for flat-rate benefits for children of deceased contributors and children of disabled contributors.
- Provided for lump sum death benefit.
- Provided that all monthly benefits be escalated annually in accordance with changes in the Consumer Price Index, subject to a ceiling of 2 percent with no change being made for annual changes of less than one percent.
- Provided that earnings be adjusted by the ratio of the average of the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) in the three years ending with the year the benefit is paid to the YMPE in the year in which the earnings were received.

Canada Pension Plan (cont.)

- Plan to cover employees and self-employed persons between the ages of 18 and 70 with pensionable earnings; contribution of employers and employees to be 1.8 percent and of self-employed persons to be 3.6 percent of pensionable earnings.
- Specified YMPE ($5,000 for 1966 and 1967 with adjustments for 1968 to 1975 based on Pension Index and thereafter using the Earnings Index) and Year's Basic Exemption (YBE) (12 percent of YMPE).
- Reduced the retirement age to 65 years in 1970 one year at a time, starting at age 68 in 1967.
- Established C.P.P. Advisory Committee, not more than 16 persons representative of employees, employers, self-employed and public, appointed by the Governor in Council for not more than five years to review operation of the Act, state of the C.P.P. Investment Fund and adequacy of coverage and benefits. Committee to report to the Minister of National Health and Welfare results of reviews and annually on its activities.
- Act to be administered by Minister of National Health and Welfare except for Part I,"Contributions", to be administered by Minister of National Revenue.
- Amended the Old Age Security Act to provide for:

  lowering the minimum eligible age for OAS pensions to 65 years in 1970, one year at a time, starting in 1966;

  extension of previous residence requirements for OAS pension to 40 years after age 18;

  provision for increases in OAS pensions from 1968 in accordance with changes in the Pension Index as used for the Canada Pension Plan.

1966 - The Statute Law (Superannuation) Amendment Act, 1966, S.C.1966-67, c.44, s.94

- Assented to July 11, 1966.
- Provided for transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund to Canada Pension Plan account of an amount equal to contributions required as Government of Canada's employer's contribution under the Canada Pension Plan Act.
- Provided for transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund to provinces providing a comprehensive pension plan, with which agreement has been reached, of an amount equal to contributions required as Government of Canada's employer's contribution. (Quebec was the only such province.)

Canada Pension Plan (cont.)

1973 - An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan, (No.2), S.C.1973-74, c.41

- Effective January 1, 1974.
- Increased YMPE from $5,600 for 1973 to $6,600 for 1974, and to $7,400 for 1975. (This had the effect of increasing the YBE from $600 to $700.)
- Escalated retirement and other benefits in accordance with the full annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) effective January 1, 1974, and provided that all benefits payable for 1967 to 1973 inclusive be recalculated and increased in accordance with the full annual increase in the CPI as though the Pension Index limitation of two percent which existed prior to 1974 had never been in effect.

1974 - An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan, S.C.1974-75-76, c.4

- Effective January 1, 1975.
- Eliminated the retirement and employment earnings tests for individuals from age 65 to age 70 inclusive. In consequence, a contributor can, upon application, receive his retirement pension the month following his 65th birthday, but he is not eligible as a pensioner to make further contributions.
- Effective January 1, 1976, the Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE) to be increased annually by 12 1/2 percent until it is equal to the adjusted 12-month average of the wages and salaries of the Industrial Composite, as published by Statistics Canada. Thereafter a formula using a moving 36-month average of wages and salaries of the Industrial Composite will be used to ensure that the YMPE for following years will be kept in line with average wages and salaries of Industrial Composite.
- Reduced the Year's Basic Exemption (YBE) from 12 percent to 10 percent of the YMPE.
- Removed for self-employed persons the eligibility requirement of earnings of one and one-third the YBE.
- Allowed self-employed members of religious sects maintaining tenets opposing benefits from private or public insurance which provide similar payments and were in existence on January 1, 1966, to elect out of the Plan. Individual may revoke his election, but cannot thereafter make another election out. Effective from January 1, 1972.
- Provided that the same benefits will be available to both male and female contributors as well as to their surviving spouses and dependent children. This involved deletion of the requirement that children of deceased or disabled female contributors had been substantially maintained by the deceased or disabled female contributors.

Canada Pension Plan (cont.)

- Removed maintenance and disability tests before widower receives benefits following death of a female contributor.
- Extended benefits to surviving spouses where the marriage followed the contributor's retirement or disability, and to children born or adopted after his/her disability.
- Changed the definition of "dependent child" to include disabled children between ages 18 and 25 who are in full time attendance at a school or university.
- If there is a bar to the marriage, reduced from seven to three the number of years that a person deemed to be a surviving spouse has lived with the contributor and been publicly represented as the spouse of the contributor; if there is no bar to the marriage, reduced from "a number of years" to one year the time that a person deemed to be a surviving spouse has lived with the contributor and been publicly represented as the spouse of the contributor.
- Provided that any provincial or municipal welfare assistance advanced to eligible pensioners prior to receipt of their first CPP cheque may be deducted from back-dated pension cheque, and repaid to provincial government, if consented to in writing by the recipient.
- Provided for regulations authorizing the Ministers of National Health and Welfare and of National Revenue to initiate action to cause a Social Insurance Number to be assigned and issued to any individual who has not earlier been assigned a Social Insurance Number.
- Authorized the Minister to write off overpayments where such repayments would cause undue hardship, are uncollectable, or would cost more than their amount to collect.
- Imposed a limit of 12 months on period in which dissatisfied applicant or beneficiary may appeal to the Minister.
- Provided that, when there is a contest between two persons about entitlement to a spouse's pension, and one of the parties appeals to the Pension Appeals Board, the other party will automatically be made part of that appeal and be bound by the decision.
- Eliminated the mandatory three-month waiting period for payment of a disability pension in cases where the disabled contributor has at any time in the preceding five years already been in receipt of a disability pension.
- Provided that appeals may be made on behalf of incapacitated persons.
- Provided for the payment of reasonable legal fees incurred by a respondent in an appeal by the Minister to the Pension Appeals Board.

Canada Pension Plan (cont.)

1977 - An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan, S.C. 1976-77, c.36

- Effective January 1, 1978.
- Provided for the splitting of Canada Pension Plan pension credits, earned by both spouses during marriage, between them upon divorce or legal annulment of their marriage.
- Provided that the credit split be made upon application by either spouse within three years of marriage dissolution.
- Stipulated that the marriage must have been dissolved after January 1, 1978, and that the spouses must have cohabited for at least three consecutive years during the marriage.
- Provided for up to 12 months of retroactive payment of retirement benefits to contributors between the ages of 65 and 70 who made late applications. Retroactive payment would be made only for months after the contributor ceased contributing to the Canada Pension Plan, and would not apply to months prior to January 1, 1978.
- Provided for application for retroactive benefits on behalf of deceased persons who were otherwise eligible for a benefit but who died without applying.
- Eliminated reductions in Canada Pension Plan children's benefits which previously applied where more than four children of a deceased or disabled contributor were eligible for such benefits.
- Permitted, as a result of an international agreement, an increase or decrease in the amount of benefits payable with the stipulation that the sum of foreign benefits and Canada Pension Plan benefits be in no case less than the Canada Pension Plan benefit which would have been payable in the absence of the agreement.
- Permitted a per diem allowance to members of the Canada Pension Plan Advisory Committee for any days spent attending to matters related to Committee business.
- Provided for regulations to permit the withholding of benefits pending receipt of required documentation. Where documentation received confirms entitlement, benefit payments would be reinstated with full retroactivity.
- The following amendments required the approval of two-thirds of the ten provinces having two-thirds of the total population of the provinces before they could be proclaimed in force:

  1. the credit-splitting amendment;
  2. the amendment concerning international agreements;
  3. the amendment authorizing the elimination of reductions in children's benefits.

Canada Pension Plan (cont.)

(One further amendment did not receive the required approval and therefore could not be proclaimed in force. This provision would have enabled Canada Pension Plan contributors, for the purposes of the determination of eligibility for Canada Pension Plan benefits or the amount of benefit payable, to drop from their contributory period months of low or zero earnings spent at home caring for a child under the age of seven.)

1979 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to amend the Canada Pension Plan, S.C. 1979, c.5, s.70

- Assented to December 6, 1979.
- Amended Part I of the Canada Pension Plan to authorize the Minister of Revenue to retain by deduction or set-off any amount payable by an employer under the Canada Pension Plan for contributions, interest, penalties or other amounts from any amount payable to that employer.

1981 - Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, S.C. 1980-81, c.47

- Assented to February 19, 1981.
- Amended the Canada Pension Plan to correct the method of calculating flat-rate benefits to ensure that a benefit already in pay would be the same as a benefit coming into pay. (s.4).
- Amended the Canada Pension Plan to increase from three to four years the time limit for an application for a refund of overpayment of contributions. (s.4).
- Amended the Canada Pension Plan to remove the requirement to identify by province the unadjusted pensionable earnings of contributors in the Record of Earnings. (s.4).

1981 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax, S.C. 1980-81, c.48

- Effective January 1, 1981.
- Amended the Canada Pension Plan to provide that employment of a person by his spouse be considered pensionable employment for the purposes of the Plan, if the remuneration may be deducted under the Income Tax Act in computing the income of the spouse (employer). (s.121).

Canada Pension Plan (cont.)

1982 - An Act to amend certain Acts that provide for the retention of records, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.102

- Effective September 20, 1982.
- Set the compulsory retention period for Canada Pension Plan records at six years unless written permission for their earlier disposal is given by the Minister. (Previously records had to be retained until written permission of their disposal was obtained from the Minister.)

1983 - SI 83-133, dated August 10, 1983

- Effective retroactively to January 1, 1978.
- Proclaimed in force the child-rearing dropout provision of the Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan, S.C. 1976-77, c.36. This enables CPP contributors to drop from their contributory periods months of low or zero earnings spent at home caring for children under the age of seven since January 1, 1966, for the purpose of determining eligibility for CPP benefits or the amount of benefit payable.

1984 - Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, S.C. 1983-84, c.40

- Effective June 29, 1984.
- Provided that, in cases of contributors who are also contributors under the Public Service Superannuation Act, income used in calculating contributory salary/wages is as defined under the Public Service Superannuation Act. This Act includes amounts which may not be included under the definition of income under the Income Tax Act.

1985 - An Act to amend the Judges Act, the Federal Court Act, The Canada Pension Plan and the National Defence Act in relation to judicial matters and to amend An Act to amend the Judges Act and the Federal Court Act in Consequence thereof, S.C. 1985 c.38

- Assented to June 27, 1985
- Provided that, in addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Pension Appeals Board consist of from one to ten judges of the Federal Court of Canada, or of a provincial superior, district or county court. (Formerly, a maximum of eight judges could serve on the Board.)

1986 - An Act to amend the Judges Act and other Acts in relation to judicial matters, S.C. 1986, c.35

- Assented to June 21, 1986.
- Amended section 35 of the CPP to provide for the appointment of temporary members of the Pension Appeals Board.

1986 - An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan and the Federal Court Act, S.C. 1986, c.38

- Assented to June 27, 1986; most provisions effective January 1, 1987.
- The Act substantially revised several aspects of the Canada Pension Plan including: benefit rates, eligibility criteria, contribution rates, and other administrative details. The changes which are outlined below cover: flexible retirement, disability benefits, combined pensions, survivor benefits, children's benefits, division of pension credits, contribution rates and administrative revisions to the Plan.

Flexible Retirement

- Provided for an actuarially adjusted retirement pension to be paid between ages 60 and 70; the 'normal' pension will be paid at 65. This amount will be reduced by .5% for each month in advance of age 65 or increased by .5% for each month after age 65. (Formerly, retirement benefits were payable after age 65 only.)
- Revised the contributory period to end with the month of the 70th birthday, the month of death, or the month before the retirement pension commences. (Formerly ended at age 65 or on retirement, if later.)
- Provided that persons electing to retire earlier than age 65 will receive benefits as of the month after work ceases, or the month in which the application is received, whichever is later. However, no benefits for 'flexible retirement' will be payable prior to January 1987.
- Provided that persons under age 65 must have 'substantially' ceased working. This is defined by regulation to mean that one's annual earnings will be less than the current maximum annual CPP retirement pension.
- Provided that persons who elect to take a retirement pension may cancel the pension within 6 months, provided that they refund all payments received.

- Provided that only persons 70 years of age or over may receive retroactive payments for a maximum of 12 months, but not for any month prior to the 70th birthday.

Disability Benefits

- Provided for a lump sum increase to the flat-rate portion of the disability benefit. The rate rises from $94.79 to $242.95 per month, effective January 1987.

- Revised the contributory requirements for entitlement to the disability benefit. Contributions will be required only for two of the last three, or five of the last ten calendar years preceding disablement. In addition, contributions for 1/3 of the years in the contributory period are no longer required.

- Provided that payment of disability benefits may be made retroactively for 12 months, beginning with contributors determined to have become disabled on or after January 1, 1987. (Currently benefits are paid retroactively for nine months.)

- Provided (effective January 1, 1987) that the contributory period will end with the month in which the disability is determined to have begun. Previously, the contributory period ended in the third month following the month the disability was determined to have begun.

Combined Pensions

1) Disability/Survivor

- Revised the method of determining benefits for combined pensions in order to increase the amount payable. Effective January 1, 1987, the benefit will equal the sum of: i) the larger of the two flat-rate benefits; and ii) the sum of the earnings-related portions of both benefits up to the maximum retirement benefit rate. Formerly, the sum of the flat-rate and earnings-related amounts could not exceed the maximum retirement pension.

- The new provision also states that the survivor benefit will be the basic benefit to which the disability amount will be added (to prevent excess offsets from private disability insurance). That is, where the sum of the earnings-related portions of both benefits exceeds the ceiling of one maximum retirement pension, it is the disability benefit which will be reduced. Upon application, the order of the above benefit-stacking may be reversed.

2)(i) Survivor/Early Retirement

- Provided that a combined survivor/early retirement benefit also be available. The survivor's benefits will consist of the flat-rate survivor benefit and an earnings-related amount. The flat-rate portion of the survivor benefit will be payable in full to eligible persons retiring before age 65. The earnings-related portion payable will equal the lesser of: i) 37.5% of the deceased contributor's retirement pension; and ii) the difference between the survivor's unadjusted retirement pension and the maximum retirement pension. The amount determined from these calculations will then be added to the amount of the survivor's own actuarially reduced retirement pension.

2)(ii) Survivor/'Normal' Retirement

- Provided that persons eligible for a combined survivor/normal retirement pension receive the sum of the survivor's own actuarially-increased retirement pension, plus a survivor's pension equal to the lesser of: i) 60% of the deceased contributor's retirement pension; or ii) the maximum retirement pension payable for the year entitlement begins, less the unadjusted amount of the survivor's own retirement pension. The survivor portion will be reduced only if the sum of both amounts exceeds the ceiling of one maximum retirement benefit in the year the retirement benefit becomes payable. (Formerly, the survivor portion was always reduced.)

Survivors' Benefits

- Provided that entitlement to the survivors' benefits will no longer be suspended upon remarriage. Benefits will be reinstated, upon application for persons who had remarried prior to this provision's coming into effect. However, no retroactive payments will be paid for periods prior to January 1, 1987.
- Added definition of spouse to include a person with whom the contributor has co-habitated for one year immediately prior to his/her death. Formerly this period was extended to three years if there was a bar to the marriage. The new definition also replaces the public representation of the couple with a requirement of a "conjugal relationship with a person of the opposite sex".

Children's Benefit

- Provided that a maximum of two benefits will be paid on behalf of a child whose contributor parents have died or become disabled. Formerly only one benefit was payable, even if both parents had been contributors.
- Provided that eligibility for "disabled contributor's child's" or "orphan's" benefits be established regardless of the child's marital status.
- Provided that benefits be suspended upon interruption of school attendance and reinstated when attendance is resumed. Formerly, benefits were terminated if attendance was interrupted. Benefits discontinued prior to January 1, 1987, may be reinstated upon application; however, no payments will be made for periods prior to this date.
- Clarified that a child adopted prior to the death or disability of the contributor parent is no longer considered to be the contributor's child. However, if the contributor continues to maintain the child (in the case of disability) or was maintaining the child immediately before his/her death, that child may be entitled to a child's benefit.
- Clarified the provision that a recipient of an orphan's benefit who becomes adopted subsequent to the contributor's death does not lose entitlement to that benefit.

Division of Unadjusted Pensionable Earnings

- Provided that in the case of a divorce (after January 1, 1987), CPP pension credits earned during cohabitation will be divided equally between spouses upon submission of necessary information to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. The former spouses must have cohabitated for at least one year. For divorces prior to January 1, 1987, application is required within three years of the divorce having been finalized. Also, the spouses are required to have lived together for 36 consecutive months.
- Provided that the above credit splitting be disallowed when injurious to both parties or when a prior spousal agreement, permitted under provincial law, expressly disallows such a split.
- Provided that credit splitting may also occur in cases of separations which have lasted at least 12 consecutive months and take place after January 1, 1987. Common-law spouses must apply within three years following the first

year of separation; no time limit exists for application by legal spouses. In cases of divorced or separated couples where one spouse dies, the surviving spouse must apply for a division of credits within three years. Should a common law spouse die during the initial year of separation, application may be made within four years following the date of separation. Formerly, no credit splitting provisions existed for separated couples.

- Provided that where a division of credits occurs and a disability pension is in pay, or is to be paid, a special formula will be applied to any potential reduction in disability benefits caused by the split. This measure was introduced to ensure that disability benefits are not unduly affected by a split.

- Provided that partners in an ongoing marriage may apply to share the CPP pension(s) earned during their marriage, so long as each spouse is at least 60 years of age, and each has applied for any CPP retirement benefits to which he/she is entitled. Such a sharing may be precluded by an explicit prior spousal agreement recognized by provincial law.

Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings (YMPE)

- Revised the base upon which the YMPE is calculated. The "Industrial Aggregate", a monthly wage and salary measure introduced by Statistics Canada in June 1986, replaces the Industrial Composite as the YMPE basis for 1988 and onwards.

- Amended the contribution rate to ensure the long-term financial solvency of the pension fund. Formerly, contribution rates were 1.8% of contributory earnings for both employers and employees, or 3.6% for self-employed persons. The Act sets a schedule of contributions from 1987 to 2011. The combined employee/employer rate increase is 0.2% in each of the first five years, and subsequently is 0.15%. However, every five years the federal and provincial finance ministers will meet to review the rate schedule for the next five years. Changes to the schedule are subject to provincial veto; amendments must maintain equal contributions for employers and employees. An additional restriction is that combined employer/employee contributions cannot increase by more than 0.2% per annum.

- Provided that the Chief Actuary must prepare a report every five years in preparation for the five-year ministerial reviews. The report is to include the contribution rates which would be added to the schedule according to the prescribed formula.

- Also provided that the Chief Actuary must prepare a report at least every three years with projections of revenues and expenditures over 30 years, and pay-as-you-go contribution rates for every fifth year for a period covering seventy years. (Formerly reports were required every five years, setting projections for ten years and the pay-as-you-go rate was drawn up for a 30-year period.)

Administration

- Provided that the Review Committee appointed for hearing appeals be replaced by Review Tribunals. The Minister will establish panels from which a Commissioner or Deputy Commission of Tribunals will select three person tribunals composed of experts in such fields as law and medicine (if applicable) to hear appeals as required.

- Provided that the Appeals system be further revised so that the quorum of judges on a Pension Appeals Board (PAB) may be varied at the Chairman's discretion. (Formerly, three judges made up a quorum) Also allows for appeals of PAB decisions to the Federal Court of Appeal.

- Provided the Minister with discretionary power to remedy the consequences of erroneous advice or administrative error by officials in his Department.

- Provided that income earned by an Indian on a reserve shall be included in computing contributory salary/wages for CPP. It is not the intent of the Act that all Indians be required to have compulsory coverage, but rather that regulations be developed with Revenue Canada and Indian Affairs to provide CPP coverage as desired.

Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, S.C. 1987, c.1.

- Assented to February 4, 1988.

- Corrected certain anomalies, inconsistencies, archaisms, errors, etc., to subsections 44(3), 59(1.2) and 105(3).

An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977, and certain related Acts, R.S. 1985, c.46.

- Declared in force on September 13, 1988.

- Deals with interests on amounts not remitted by employers under the Canada Pension Plan Act.

An Act to amend the Tax Court of Canada Act and other Acts in consequence thereof, R.S. 1985, c.51.

- Assented to September 22, 1988.

- Effective January 1, 1991.

- Under the new tax appeals system, the Tax Court of Canada will have exclusive original jurisdiction with respect to new appeals from January 1, 1991 on.

An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan (spousal agreement), R.S. 1991, c.14.

- Assented to February 1, 1991.

- Proclaimed in force March 15, 1991.

- Enables the Minister of National Health and Welfare to take remedial action as he considers appropriate to place a person who was denied a division of pensionable earnings as a result of the terms of a spousal agreement entered into or a court order made before June 4, 1986, in the position that the person would be under the Act had the spousal agreement not been entered into or a court order made.

SECTION 8

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE

1951 - The Old Age Assistance Act, S.C.1951, c.55

- Effective January 1, 1952.
- Provided for federal sharing with the provinces on a 50-50 basis of the cost of assistance to persons aged 65 to 69.
- Stipulated residence requirement of 20 years immediately preceding the date of the proposed commencement of assistance. Persons not able to meet this requirement had to have been present in Canada prior to the 20-year period for periods totalling twice the length of the gaps in the 20-year period.
- Excluded recipients of old age security pensions, blind persons allowances or war veterans' allowances.
- Set maximum assistance at $40 monthly ($480 annually). (The same as it had been under the repealed Old Age Pensions Act.)
- Set total income limit, including assistance, at:

Single person	$720 ($60 monthly)
Married couple	$1,200 ($100 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$1,320 ($110 monthly)

- Certain provisions of the Old Age Pensions Act and Regulations were not carried over to Old Age Assistance legislation. In consequence:
  - (i) Indians were no longer excluded;
  - (ii) Recoveries were no longer made from estates of deceased pensioners;
  - (iii) Pension was no longer suspended when the pensioner was in a public mental institution as a public charge.
- All agreements under the Act between the federal and provincial and territorial governments were effective by April 1, 1952.

1957 - The Appropriation Act No.4, 1957, S.C.1957, c.14, ss.10, 11

- Effective July 1, 1957.
- Increased maximum assistance from $40 monthly ($480 annually) to $46 monthly ($552 annually).
- Raised total income limit to:

Single person	$840 ($70 monthly)
Married couple	$1,380 ($115 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$1,740 ($145 monthly)

Old Age Assistance (cont.)

1957 - An Act to amend the Old Age Assistance Act, S.C.1957-58, c.6

- Effective November 1, 1957.
- Reduced residence requirement to 10 years immediately preceding date of the proposed commencement of assistance. Persons not able to meet this requirement must have been present in Canada prior to the 10-year period for periods totalling twice the length of the gaps in the 10-year period.
- Increased maximum assistance from $46 monthly ($552 annually) to $55 monthly ($660 annually).
- Total allowable income, including assistance, not to exceed:

Single person	$960 ($80 monthly)
Married couple	$1,620 ($135 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$1,980 ($165 monthly)

1962 - An Act to amend the Old Age Assistance Act, S.C.1962, c.4

- Effective February 1, 1962.
- Increased maximum assistance from $55 monthly ($660 annually) to $65 monthly ($780 annually).
- Total allowable income, including assistance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,140 ($95 monthly)
Married couple	$1,980 ($165 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$2,340 ($195 monthly)

1963 - An Act to amend the Old Age Assistance Act, the Disabled Persons Act and the Blind Persons Act, S.C.1963, c.26

- Effective December 1, 1963.
- Increased maximum old age assistance from $65 monthly ($780 annually) to $75 monthly ($900 annually).
- Total allowable income, including assistance, not to exceed:

Single person	$1,260 ($105 monthly)
Married couple	$2,220 ($185 monthly)
Married couple (blind spouse)	$2,580 ($215 monthly)

1965 - The Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act, S.C.1964-65, c.54, s.3 and Schedule I

- Assented to April 3, 1965.
- Provided for an interim period (April 1, 1965 to March 31, 1970) during which a province might assume greater administrative and financial responsibility for certain federal-provincial programs (including Old Age Assistance), and during which more permanent arrangements might be devised.

Old Age Assistance (cont.)

- Authorized supplementary agreements under which provinces participating in federal-provincial standing programs (including Old Age Assistance) would assume full responsiblity for administration and financing.
- Provided for financial adjustments through the Minister of Finance for programs under Schedule I in the form of a tax abatement of a specified percentage of federal individual income tax on the income of residents of the province, an associated equalization payment, and an operating cost adjustment, the latter to ensure that a province receive the equivalent of the amount which would otherwise have been paid under the former joint program.

1966 - The Canada Assistance Plan, S.C.1966-67, c.45, s.22

- Effective April 1, 1966.
- Amended the Old Age Assistance Act to allow provinces to discontinue receipt of applications under the Old Age Assistance Act, and to provide assistance under general programs with federal reimbursement under the Canada Assistance Plan.

1975 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1974-75-76, c.58, s.10

- Assented to June 26, 1975.
- Repealed the Old Age Assistance Act. (Operations under the Old Age Assistance Act had terminated on January 1, 1970, when the eligible age for the Old Age Security pension was lowered to 65 years (the Canada Pension Plan, S.C.1964-65, c.51, s.122). Persons receiving old age assistance at that time subsequently received benefits under the Old Age Security Act.)

SECTION 9

OLD AGE PENSIONS

OLD AGE PENSIONS

1927 - The Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1927, c.35

- Assented to March 31, 1927.
- Authorized federal reimbursement of 50 percent to the provinces for pensions to British subjects aged 70 or over who had resided in Canada for at least 20 years and in the province for at least five years.
- Set the maximum pension at $20 monthly ($240 annually).
- Set the total income limit, including pension, at:

Single person	$364
Married couple, one spouse on pension	$490
Married couple, both spouses on pension	$730

- Excluded Indians.

1931 - An Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1931, c.42

- Effective July 31, 1931.
- Increased the federal share for pensions from 50 percent to 75 percent.

1942 - Order-in-Council, P.C.9/3183, dated April 21, 1942
Order-in-Council, P.C.23/11160, dated December 9, 1942

- Amended regulations to allow British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario to pay supplements without having such regarded as income. (Manitoba and Saskatchewan added in 1943; all provinces added by 1947.)

1943 - The War Appropriations Act, No.3, S.C.1943-44, c.32

- Assented to July 24, 1943.
- Covered, under general provisions, payment of the increase in Old Age pensions.
- Increased the maximum Old Age pensions from $20 monthly ($240 annually) to $25 monthly ($300 annually) by Order-in-Council, P.C.6367, dated August 10, 1943, under the authority of the War Measures Act. The increase, a special war supplement of $5 a month, was charged against the War Appropriation allotment. (Announcement by the Honourable J.L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, in the House of Commons, July 24, 1943. See also Public Accounts 1943-44, p. CC-12.)

Old Age Pensions (cont.)

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.3377, dated August 5, 1944

- Increased total allowable income, including Old Age pension, for a single pensioner from $365 to $425, and for a married couple from $730 to $850. (Order-in-Council under the authority of the War Measures Act. Announced by the Honourable J.L. Ilsley, Minister of Finance, in the House of Commons, May 29, 1944.)

1947 - An Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1947, c.67

- Effective May 1, 1947.
- Eliminated the provincial residence requirement of five years.
- Eliminated the British citizenship requirement.
- Increased the maximum Old Age pension from $25 monthly ($300 annually) to $30 monthly ($360 annually).
- Increased the total allowable income, including pension, as follows:

Single Person	$600
Married couple	$1,080
Married couple, with one spouse blind	$1,200

1949 - The Statute Law Amendment (Newfoundland) Act, S.C.1949, c.6, s.19

- Effective April 1, 1949.
- Provided that residence and presence in Newfoundland be deemed residence and presence in Canada for purposes of the Old Age Pensions Act.

1949 - An Act to amend the Old Age Pensions Act, S.C.1949, c.19, s.1

- Effective May 1, 1949.
- Increased the maximum Old Age pensions from $30 monthly ($360 annually) to $40 monthly ($480 annually). Income limits unchanged.

1951 - The Old Age Security Act, S.C.1951 (2nd Session), c.18, s.13

- Repealed and replaced the Old Age Pensions Act. Effective date for repealing of the Act was March 31, 1954 (SOR/54-100, dated April 14, 1954).

SECTION 10

OLD AGE SECURITY, GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT, SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCE

OLD AGE SECURITY PENSIONS, GUARANTEED INCOME SUPPLEMENT AND SPOUSE'S ALLOWANCES

1951 - The British North America Act, 1951, 14-15 George VI, c.32 (U.K.) (R.S.C.1970, Appendix II, page 439)

- Effective May 31, 1951.
- Amended section 94 of the British North America Act, 1867 to authorize the Parliament of Canada to make laws in relation to old age pensions.
- Stipulated that no law made by the Parliament of Canada in relation to old age pensions shall affect the operation of any law of a provincial legislature in relation to old age pensions.

1951 - The Old Age Security Act, S.C.1951 (2nd Session), c.18

- Effective January 1, 1952.
- Provided that a pension would be payable to persons aged 70 years or over.
- Set pension at a flat rate of $40 monthly ($480 annually).
- Stipulated residence requirement of 20 years immediately preceding approval of application. Persons not able to meet this requirement had to have been present in Canada prior to the preceding 20 years for periods totalling twice the length of the gaps in the 20-year period, and in addition, had to have resided in Canada for at least one year immediately preceding approval of application.
- Provided for suspension of payment when pensioner left the country and resumption when he returned. If he returned within six months of leaving, pension to be paid for three of the months of absence, but not for more than three months in a calender year.
- Provided for financing of pensions by two percent tax on taxable personal income with a limit of $60 a year; by two percent tax on corporate income; by two percent sales tax (a reallocation of part of the existing sales tax); and by loans from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- Repealed the Old Age Pensions Act, effective March 31, 1954 (SOR/54-100, dated April 14, 1954).

1957 - The Appropriation Act No.4, 1957, S.C.1957-58, c.14, ss.10,11

- Effective July 1, 1957.
- Increased the Old Age Security (OAS) pension from $40 monthly ($480 annually) to $46 monthly ($552 annually).

OAS, GIS, and SPA (cont.)

1957 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1957-58, c.3

- Effective November 1, 1957.
- Increased the pension from $46 monthly ($552 annually) to $55 monthly ($660 annually).
- Reduced the residence requirement to ten years immediately preceding approval of application. Persons not able to meet this requirement had to have been present in Canada prior to the preceding ten years for periods totalling twice the length of the gaps in the ten-year period, and in addition, had to have resided in Canada for at least one year immediately preceding approval of application.
- Increased duration of pension payments to pensioners who were absent from Canada from three to six months in a calendar year.

1959 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1959, c.14

- Increased tax on personal taxable income from two to 2 1/2 percent with maximum of $75 for 1959, and to three percent with maximum of $90 for 1960 and subsequently.
- Increased tax on corporate income from two to three percent, effective January 1, 1959.
- Increased sales tax from two to three percent, effective April 10, 1959.

1960 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1960, c.34

- Assented to July 7, 1960.
- Provided that the pension be payable outside the country to any pensioner for six months of any absence exclusive of the month of departure, and indefinitely outside the country to those with at least 25 years residence in Canada after age 21.

1962 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1962, c.5

- Effective February 1, 1962.
- Increased pension from $55 monthly ($660 annually) to $65 monthly ($780 annually).

1963 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1963, c.16

- Effective October 1, 1963.
- Increased pension from $65 monthly ($780 annually) to $75 monthly ($900 annually).
- Increased tax on personal taxable income from three to four percent to a maximum of $120, effective January 1, 1964.

OAS, GIS, and SPA (cont.)

1965 - The Canada Pension Plan, S.C.1964-65, c.51, ss.119, 120, 122

- Effective May 5, 1965.
- Amended the Old Age Security Act to provide for:

  lowering the minimum eligible age for OAS pension to 65 years, one year at a time, starting in 1966 at age 69;

  extension of previous residence requirements for OAS pension to include 40 years after age 18 without requiring residence in Canada for the year immediately preceding approval of application;

  annual increases in OAS pensions from 1968 in accordance with changes in the Pension Index as used for the Canada Pension Plan, subject to ceiling of two percent. No change in benefits if the change in the Pension Index is less than one percent.

1966 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1966-67, c.65

- Effective January 1, 1967.
- Established monthly Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) for OAS pensioners born on or before December 31, 1910, whose income is below a specified amount.
- Set maximum monthly GIS at $30 for 1967, thereafter to be 40 percent of OAS pension.
- GIS to be income-tested and reduced by $1 for each full $2 of monthly base income calculated at one-twelfth of income excluding OAS pension from the preceding year.
- For married pensioners the GIS to be reduced at $1 for each full $4 of the couple's combined income excluding the OAS pension. Where one spouse has not reached pensionable age the reduction to be on their combined income excluding the OAS pension and an amount equal to the OAS pension for the younger spouse.
- Authorized payment of the Supplement for periods of absence from Canada up to six months in addition to the month of the pensioner's departure from Canada.

1967 - An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1966-67, c.79

- Applicable to 1967 and subsequent taxation years.
- Increased maximum OAS tax on personal income from $120 to $240.

OAS, GIS, and SPA (cont.)

1970 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1970-71-72, c.9 (See also R.S.C.1970 (2nd Supplement), c.21)

- Effective January 1, 1971.
- Set OAS pension at $80 monthly ($960 annually).
- Increased the residence requirement: persons absent from Canada during the ten-year period preceding approval of application must have been present in Canada during the preceding years, but after age 18, for periods equal to three times the aggregate period of absence prior to the ten-year period, and in addition must have resided in Canada at least one year immediately preceding approval of application. (Effective December 18, 1971.)
- Set maximum monthly single GIS at $55 ($660 annually) and maximum monthly two-pensioner couple GIS at $47.50 ($570 annually), effective April 1, 1971.
- Escalation in accordance with changes in Pension Index to be applied only to combined OAS/GIS and added to Supplement; terminated escalation of pension alone.
- Removed the requirement that pensioner be born on or before December 31, 1910, to be eligible for the Supplement.

1971 - An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act and the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1970-71, c.62

- Effective January 1, 1972.
- Repealed the OAS tax of three percent on sales under Section 27 of the Excise Tax Act.

1971 - The Income Tax Act, S.C.1970-71, c.63, Part II, s.3

- Repealed OAS tax of four percent or $240 on personal taxable income and three percent on corporate income, applicable to the 1972 taxation year.
- Authorized the Minister of National Revenue to credit OAS Fund with an amount equivalent to net amount lost by repeal of personal and corporate income taxes, and sales tax under the Excise Tax, applicable to taxation year 1972.
- Provided that Supplements under Old Age Security Act would first be added in as income for income tax purposes and then deducted, effectively to make the Supplements non-taxable. Applicable from 1972, and the previous Income Tax Act amended to make the provision applicable for 1971.

1972 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1972, c.10

- Effective January 1, 1972.

OAS, GIS, and SPA (cont.)

- Increased basic OAS pension of $80 by the full increase in the Consumer Price Index to $82.88 from January 1, 1972, and thereafter to be escalated annually by the full increase in the Consumer Price Index, effective April 1, 1973.
- Payment of OAS pensions to continue indefinitely outside Canada if pensioner had resided in Canada for 20 years after age 18, effective May 19, 1972.
- Raised monthly single GIS from January 1, 1972 to $67.12 ($805.44 annually) and monthly two-pensioner couple GIS to $59.62 for each spouse ($715.44 annually).
- GIS to be escalated annually for full increase in Consumer Price Index from April 1, 1973.

1973 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1973-74, c.8

- Effective April 1, 1973.
- Increased basic OAS pension to $100 monthly ($1,200 annually), and basic pension to be escalated each year, and thereafter from April 1, 1974 by the full increase in the Consumer Price Index.

1973 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1973-74, c.35

- Effective October 1, 1973.
- Changed from annual to quarterly escalation of OAS pension and GIS in accordance with full increase each quarter in the Consumer Price Index.
- Continued provision that there be no reduction of OAS/GIS benefits if Consumer Price Index declines.

1975 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C.1974-75-76, c,58

- Effective October 1, 1975.
- Provided for the payment of Spouse's Allowance to persons aged 60 to 64 inclusive who are married to and living with pensioners.
- Set the maximum monthly Spouse's Allowance at a sum equal to the monthly OAS pension plus the maximum monthly GIS at the married rate.
- Spouse's Allowance to be income tested - OAS portion to be reduced by $3 for every $4 of monthly income for couples with combined income of up to 4/3 of rounded monthly OAS pension; if combined income exceeds 4/3 of the rounded monthly OAS pension the OAS portion to be reduced by $3 for every $4 of monthly income to zero, and then the GIS portion to be reduced by $1 for every $4 of monthly income.

OAS, GIS and SPA (cont.)

- Residence requirements for Spouses' Allowance to be identical to those for OAS pensions.
- Amended the Income Tax Act to provide that Spouse's Allowance would first be added in as income for income tax purposes, and then deducted, effectively to make the Allowance non-taxable, applicable to the 1975 taxation year and thereafter.
- Authorized definition of residence and presence in Canada and intervals of absence that may be considered not to have interrupted residence or presence in Canada, for the purposes of the OAS Act, effective June 26, 1975.
- Dissolved the OAS Fund by providing that payments of benefits under the OAS Act be made out of Consolidated Revenue Fund as a statutory appropriation, effective June 26, 1975.
- Authorized the federal government to enter into agreements with provinces whereby provincial payments similar or supplementary to those payable under the OAS Act may be combined with OAS benefit payments and paid on behalf of the province, and reimbursed by the province quarterly. Effective June 26, 1975.
- Repealed the Old Age Assistance Act, effective June 26, 1975.

1977 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act. S.C. 1976-77, c.9

- Effective July 1, 1977.
- Amended the residence requirements to provide for the payment of partial OAS pensions based on the number of years of residence in Canada after attaining the age of 18, up to a maximum of 40 years. The pension is earned at the rate of 1/40th for each year of residence, subject to a minimum of 10 years for payment in Canada and 20 years for payment abroad.
- Provided for a 40-year transitional period. The new legislation applies to residents of Canada who were under 25 years of age on July 1, 1977, and to persons of any age who were outside Canada on that date and had no prior residence in Canada after reaching age 18 and were not in possession of a valid immigrant visa. The more beneficial of the new or the previous rules apply to those who were 25 years of age or over and resident in Canada on July 1, 1977, or, if outside Canada, were 25 or over and had some prior residence in Canada after attaining age 18 or were in possession of a valid immigrant visa on July 1, 1977.

OAS, GIS and SPA (cont.)

- Provided that GIS benefits be available to recipients of partial pensions on the same basis as for those receiving full pensions.
- Provided for payment of partial Spouse's Allowances based on the same residence requirements as for OAS pensions. The OAS equivalent portion of the allowance is calculated at the rate of 1/40th for each year of residence in Canada after age 18, and the reduction formula based on the combined income of the couple is then applied to the total of the reduced OAS equivalent and the Guaranteed Income Supplement equivalent.
- Provided for quarterly escalation of partial benefits in accordance with the Consumer Price Index.
- Provided for inclusion of Old Age Security pensions in international social security agreements, for the purpose of protecting the acquired social security rights of those who migrate across international boundaries.

1977 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax and to provide other authority for the raising of funds, S.C. 1977-78, c.1, s.115

- Effective January 1, 1977.
- Excluded from revenue considered as income for the purposes of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Spouse's Allowance federal grants received for home insulation.

1978 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C. 1978-79, c.3

- Assented to November 20, 1978.
- Increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance, in addition to increases in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index, by $10 a month for each spouse, and by $20 a month for a single pensioner, effective January 1, 1979.
- Provided for the continuation of the Spouse's Allowance for six months after the death of a pensioner spouse, where that death occurred on or after November 20, 1978.

OAS, GIS and SPA (cont.)

1979 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C. 1979, c.4

- Effective October 31, 1979.
- Extended eligibility for Spouse's Allowance to the surviving spouses of deceased Old Age Security pensioners, based on the income of the surviving spouse, to age 65, remarriage or death, where residence and income criteria are met.
- Reinstated recipients of Spouse's Allowances who had ceased to receive the Allowance as a result of the older spouse's death.
- Repealed the provision suspending Old Age Security benefits for pensioners sentenced to prison for more than 90 days. (An effect of this amendment is that Spouse's Allowances for the spouses of prisoners will no longer be suspended).

1980 - An Act to Amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C. 1980, c.4

- Effective July 1, 1980.
- Increased the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Spouse's Allowance by $35.00 monthly for each pensioner household receiving the Supplement. That is, single pensioners began to receive an additional $35.00 per month while married pensioners, receiving either the Supplement or the Spouse's Allowance, each received an additional $17.50 monthly. These increases were in addition to escalation in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

  (As of July 1, 1980, the basic monthly OAS pension was $191.28; maximum GIS at the single rate was $192.03 and at the married rate $148.07; the Spouse's Allowance was $339.35.)

1981 - Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, S.C. 1980-81, c.47

- Assented to February 19, 1981.
- Amended the Old Age Security Act to permit an applicant for the Guaranteed Income Supplement who retires in December of one year, or his spouse if she is an applicant for a Spouse's Allowance, to file a statement of estimated earnings for the following calendar year, which will be deemed to be the income for the base calendar year. (s.34).

OAS, GIS and SPA (cont.)

1981 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax, S.C. 1980-81, c.48

- Effective January 1, 1981.
- Excluded from revenues considered as income for the purposes of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Spouse's Allowance federal grants received for energy conversion. (s.120).

1983 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.138

- Assented to February 15, 198[illegible].
- Limited increases in the indexation of the basic Old Age Security pension to a maximum of 6% in 1983 and to a maximum of 5% in 1984.
- Maintained quarterly increases in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Spouse's Allowance, and provided for an additional quarterly amount for recipients of either benefit equal to the amount lost by the limited indexation of the basic OAS pension.

1983 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.140, s.134

- Assented to March 30, 1983.
- Amended the Old Age Security Act to exempt the amount of any social assistance payment made on the basis of a means test by a registered charity or a provincial program from the definition of income for purposes of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and the Spouse's Allowance.
- Amended the definition of "net income" to include Workers' Compensation and foreign pension income. Since GIS/SPA benefits are based on net income (with a few exceptions), these two income sources must be included in determining GIS/SPA entitlement.

1984 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and certain other Acts in relation thereto, S.C. 1984, c.19

- Assented to June 19, 1984.
- Provided for sharing of information including income data in respect of GIS applicants/recipients with the Department of Veterans Affairs, for the purposes of administering the War Veterans Allowances Act or Part XI of the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act. (Effective July 1, 1984.)

1984 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C. 1984 c.27

- Assented to June 28, 1984; effective July 1, 1984 (with the exception of certain technical sections, not discussed below).
- Provided lump sum increases of $25 (above regular indexing) in both July and December 1984 to pensioners receiving GIS at the single rate and widowed SPA beneficiaries.
- Provided that the OAS benefit may be paid retroactively for up to five years in cases of applications received on, or after, June 28, 1984 (formerly available for one year).
- Provided for an increase in the GIS guarantee to recipients of partial OAS pensions to the same minimum income as pensioners receiving full OAS pensions.
- Provided for payment of a full SPA benefit after a minimum of 10 years residence in Canada (formerly OAS portion could be reduced in proportion to years of residence).
- Provided that, for GIS entitlement purposes, spouses who are involuntarily separated must have been so separated for six months (formerly one year) in order to be considered not married.
- Provided that benefits may be payable to the heirs/estate on behalf of a deceased person who, prior to his death, would have been eligible for OAS and/or GIS. SPA also becomes payable where the pensioner spouse dies and the surviving spouse would have been entitled to SPA had joint application been made. All applications must be made within one year of the death. Applications in respect of deaths occurring prior to this provision (i.e. prior to July 1984) may be made until June 29, 1985. All applications are deemed to have been received on the date

of death; however, in the case of GIS or SPA applications, no benefits are payable in respect of any period prior to July 1, 1984.

- Provided for ministerial discretion to issue a certificate declaring that a pensioner is presumed dead for the purposes of the OAS Act.

- Provided for repayment to provincial governments of any social assistance advances, through deductions from OAS/GIS/SPA benefits, where such advances were made while the applicant awaited OAS/GIS/SPA. Repayment must have been authorized in writing by the pensioner prior to receipt of any advance.

- Provided the Minister of National Health and Welfare with discretionary authority to take appropriate action to alleviate the consequences of erroneous official advice or administrative error.

1985 - An Act to amend the Old Age Security Act, S.C. 1985, c.30

- Assented to June 28, 1985.

- Provided that Spouse's Allowance be payable to all widow(er)s, aged 60-64 years, subject to income and residence requirements. (Formerly, only widows of GIS pensioners were eligible.) Effective September 1985.

- Redefined "spouse" to include all persons having lived with another for at least one year, where the couple publicly represented themselves as man and wife. (Formerly, couples were to have lived together for three years where there was a bar to the marriage, or one year where no such bar existed.)

1989 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, the Old Age Security Act, the Public Utilities Income Tax Transfer Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and a related Act

- Recovered all or a portion of Old Age Security payments at a rate of 15% from Canadians whose individual net income exceeded $50,000. The recovery rate of 15% would be phased in over 3 years beginning in 1989. The threshold would be indexed annually by the amount by which inflation exceeds 3%. In 1990, the threshold was $50,850.

- Effective September 13, 1988, pensioners are allowed to deduct CPP/QPP contributions, Unemployment Insurance premiums and the Employment Expense Deduction when calculating their income for GIS/SPA purposes.

SECTION 11

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CARE INSURANCE

HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CARE INSURANCE

1919 - The Department of Health Act, S.C.1919, c.24

- Assented to June 6, 1919.
- Established the Department of Health (Canada), bringing together health services from a number of federal departments.
- Established the Dominion Council of Health consisting of the Deputy Minister of Health (Chairman), the chief executive officer of each provincial department or board of health, and not more than five other persons appointed by the Governor in Council for a term of three years.
- The duties of the Council were to be as prescribed by the Governor in Council.

1935 - Employment and Social Insurance Act, S.C.1935, c.38, Part IV

- Charged the Employment and Social Insurance Commission, in cooperation with other departments, the Dominion Council of Health, and with provinces, municipalities, associations and corporations, with the following duties and powers:
    1. The collection of information and data on plans for providing by means of insurance or otherwise for:

       medical, dental and surgical care, including medicines, drugs, appliances or hospitalization, or

       compensation for loss of earnings arising out of ill-health, accident or diseases;
    2. the analysis and provision of such information to provinces, municipalities, corporations or groups for the purpose of providing such benefits;
    3. the examination of and reporting on any such plan, and the furnishing of technical and professional guidance in regard to the establishing, working or reorganization of the plan.
- Authorized the Commission to submit to the Governor in Council proposals for cooperation by the Dominion in providing any of the benefits, and to undertake special investigations of these.

1937 - Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (U.K.), (1937), A.C.355

- Pronounced *ultra vires* the Employment and Social Insurance Act, S.C.1935, c.38.

Hospital and Medical Care Insurance (cont.)

1948 - Appropriation Act No. 4, 1948, S.C.1948, c. 78, Schedule B, Vote 797

- Assented to June 30, 1948.
- Granted to the Department of National Health and Welfare an initial appropriation of $29,895,300 for the National Health Grants Program to assist the provinces in extending and improving their health services in anticipation of the future development of health insurance programs.
- Authorized funds for the following Health Grants:

  Health Survey
  Hospital Construction
  General Public Health
  Tuberculosis Control
  Mental Health
  Venereal Disease Control
  Crippled Children
  Professional Training
  Public Health Research
  Cancer Control.

1953 - Order-in-Council, P.C.1953-471, dated March 31, 1953

- Extended the National Health Grants Program to:

  Laboratory and Radiological Services
  Medical Rehabilitation
  Child and Maternal Health.

1957 - The Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act, S.C. 1956-57, c.28

- Effective May 1, 1957. (No contributions were made until the 1958 Amendment Act came into force.)
- Authorized agreements with the provinces to provide for the payment by Canada of contributions for programs administered by the provinces providing hospital insurance and laboratory and other services in aid of diagnoses, except for mental hospitals and tuberculosis sanatoria, since these were already publicly financed in most provinces.
- Provided for contributions to be paid out of the consolidated Revenue Fund.
- All agreements under the Act between the federal and the provincial and territorial governments were effective by January 1, 1961.

Hospital and Medical Care Insurance (cont.)

- Provided for commencement of contributions when at least six provinces, containing at least half the population of Canada, had entered into such agreements and qualified for receipt of such contributions.
- Provided that the Act be administered by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

1958 - An Act to amend the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act, S.C.1958, c.6

- Effective July 1, 1958.
- Withdrew the provision that no federal contributions might be paid under the Act until at least six provinces containing at least half the population of Canada had entered into agreements and had provincial laws in force.
- Authorized payment of contributions from July 1, 1958.

1965 - Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act, S.C.1964-65, c.54, s.3 and Schedule I

- Effective January 1, 1965.
- Provided for an interim period (January 1, 1965 to December 31, 1970) during which a province might assume greater administrative and financial responsibility for the hospital insurance program, and during which more permanent arrangements might be devised.
- Provided for financial adjustments through the Minister of Finance for specified federal-provincial standing programs including hospital insurance and health grants of a tax abatement of a specified percentage of federal individual income tax on the income of residents of the province, an associated equalization payment, and an operating cost adjustment, the latter to ensure that a province receive the equivalent of the amount which would otherwise have been paid under the former joint program.

1966 - The Health Resources Fund Act, S.C.1966-67, c.42

- Effective from January 1, 1966 to December 31, 1980.
- Established in the Consolidated Revenue Fund a special account, the Health Resources Fund, to contain $500 million for the fifteen-year period 1966 to 1980, out of which the federal government was authorized to pay to the provinces up to 50 percent of the costs of construction, acquisition and renovation of facilities and acquisition of basic equipment for the training of persons in the health professions or in occupations associated with the health professions and for research in the health fields.

Hospital and Medical Care Insurance (cont.)

- Provided that the fund be administered by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

1966 - The Medical Care Act, S.C.1966-67, c.64

- Effective July 1, 1968.
- Authorized the federal government to make contributions amounting to half the per capita cost of insured medical care services furnished by participating provinces multiplied by the average number for the year of insured persons covered in each province.
- Specified the criteria to be met by provincial medical care insurance plans. Among these were:

  the benefits all to be medically necessary services provided by medical practitioners;

  the coverage to reach and to be maintained at 95 percent or more of each province's insurable residents;

  provincial plan cost-shared benefits to be portable from province to province;

  provincial plans to be non-profit and administered by a provincial public authority accountable to the provincial legislature;

  services to be available on equal terms and conditions to all insurable residents by ensuring that payments were made in such a manner as not to financially impede or preclude access to those deemed medically necessary.
- Provided that the Act be administered by the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

1970 - Appropriation Act, No.1, 1970, S.C.1969-70, c.24, Schedule, Department of Finance Vote 5b

- Effective January 1, 1971.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to the hospital insurance program to December 31, 1971 (12 months beyond the period specified in the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.)

1971 - Appropriation Act, No.1, 1971, S.C.1970-71-72, c.25, Schedule, Department of Finance Vote 7b

- Effective January 1, 1972.
- Authorized continuing federal payments and agreements relating to the hospital insurance program to December 31, 1972 (24 months beyond the period specified in the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.)

Hospital and Medical Care Insurance (cont.)

1972 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act, 1972, S.C.1972, c.8, s.34 and Schedule I

- Assented to March 29, 1972

- Increased the tax abatement associated with the hospital insurance program from 14 to 16 tax abatement units.

- Amended the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act to authorize an extension of the contracting-out period for hospital insurance to December 31, 1977.

1976 - An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act, S.C.1974-75-76, c.107

- Effective July 16, 1976.

- Placed limits on the rate of increase of federal per capita contributions towards the costs of insured services: 13 percent for the fiscal year 1976-77, 10 1/2 percent for 1977-78, and percentages to be determined in a manner prescribed by the Governor in Council for subsequent years.

- Provided for additional professional services to become insured for cost-sharing purposes, and to be exempt from the above limits for a period of three years.

- Provided opportunities for orders in council related to "limits" to be debated in Parliament.

1977 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, S.C. 1976-77, c.10, Part VI

- Effective April 1, 1977.

- Replaced the cost-sharing arrangement previously contained in the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act with a block-fund financial arrangement comprising a cash transfer and federal reductions in the personal and corporate income tax fields.

- Provided for the cash transfer for the Hospital Insurance and Medical Care programs to be conditional upon the program conditions and criteria contained in the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act.

- Provided for the cash transfer to become an equal per capita amount in each province over a five-year period.

- Provided for the cash transfer to be escalated on the basis of a three-year average growth of per capita gross national product.

Hospital and Medical Care Insurance (cont.)

- Provided for an additional equal per capital cash transfer to the provinces and territories for the Extended Health Care Services Program, consisting of the following services:

  a) nursing home intermediate care;
  b) adult residential care;
  c) converted mental hospitals;
  d) home care;
  e) ambulatory health care.

- Repealed the Established Programs (Interim Arrangements) Act.

1978 - An Act to amend the Health Resources Fund Act, S.C. 1978-79, c.12

- Effective November 4, 1978.

- Provided that no further payments be made in respect of health training facilities except those authorized by the Minister before November 4, 1978.

1982 - An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, 1977, and to provide for payments to certain provinces, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c. 94

- Effective April 1, 1982.

- Modified the computation of Established Programs Financing transfers in order to make the per capita value of the total federal contribution equal in all provinces.

- Terminated the extension of compensation in respect of the 1972-1977 compensation for revenue guarantee.

1984 - The Canada Health Act, S.C. 1983-84, c.6

- Effective April 1, 1984.

- Repealed and replaced the Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act and the Medical Care Act.

- Consolidated the program criteria and conditions of payment of federal cash contributions to the provinces for insured health services and payments to the provinces for extended health care services.

- Insured health services comprise necessary hospital services, physician services and dental surgery performed in a hospital.

- Extended health care services comprise nursing home intermediate care, adult residential care, home care, and ambulatory health care.

Hospital and Medical Care Insurance (cont.)

- Criteria that a provincial health program must meet to be eligible for the full cash portion of the contribution are: public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability and accessibility. Provinces must also provide information to the Department on the operation of the program, and appropriate visibility to federal contributions.

- Provided for a non-discretionary reduction of the federal contribution by the amount permitted by a province to be charged in user fees and extra billing.

1984 - An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act, S.C. 1983-84, c.13

- Assented to June 1984; effective April 1, 1983. Those portions dealing with the Canada Health Act became effective April 1, 1984.

- Replaced the title of the Act with "Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977".

- Provided that transfer payments in respect of hospital insurance and medical care not be affected by the anti-inflation "six and five program". The growth of transfers in respect of post-secondary education was limited by replacing the GNP and population based escalator for 1983-84 and 1984-85 by escalators of 6 percent and 5 percent respectively.

1985 - An Act to provide for the making of supplementary fiscal equalization payments to certain provinces for the period April 1, 1982 to March 31, 1987, S.C. 1985, c.29

- Effective July 1985 in respect of payments for the 1985-86 fiscal year, and April 1986 for payments for 1986-87.

- Provided for supplementary equalization payments to be made to Québec, Manitoba, and the Atlantic provinces for 1985-86.

- Provided for a supplementary equalization payment to be made to Manitoba for the 1986-87 fiscal year.

1986 - An Act to amend the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977, S.C. 1986, c.34

- Effective April 1, 1986.

- Provided that, as part of the general effort to restore stability to federal finances, the annual growth in EPF transfers will be reduced by two percentage points. That is, although the rate of growth of transfers will continue to be based on GNP and population, and will continue to be equal in per capita terms across all provinces, the per capita amount will grow by two percentage points less from 1986-87 on.

- Provided for special payments in the event that the growth of the total EPF transfer (under the new formula) is less than the annual inflation rate. In this instance, special equal per capita payments would be made to all provinces. These payments would ensure that the rate of growth of the total transfer to all provinces would be the lesser of the rate of growth of inflation or the rate of growth had the legislation not been changed.

1990 - An Act to amend certain statutes to enable restraint of government expenditures, S.C. 1991, c.9.

- Effective April 1, 1990.

- Authorized that federal per capita cash and tax transfers to the provinces under the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act would remain at the 1989-90 level for a period of two years.

1991 - Budget Implementation Act, 1991.

- Effective April 1, 1991.

- Authorized that federal per capita cash and tax transfers to the provinces would remain at the 1989-90 level until 1994-95.

- Provided for deductions from other transfer payments.

SECTION 12

CHILD TAX CREDIT

CHILD TAX CREDIT

1979 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act to provide for a Child Tax Credit and to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973, S.C. 1978-79, c.5

- Assented to December 12, 1978.

- Established the refundable Child Tax Credit program to provide $200 per year per child under 13 years of age where the family income does not exceed $18,000, effective January 1, 1979 in respect of the 1978 taxation year. An eligible child is one on whose behalf a Family Allowance was payable for December of the taxation year. Recipients of Special Allowances are not eligible.

- Provided that the amount of the Child Tax Credit be reduced by five percent of any family income over $18,000.

- Provided that the maximum credit and income ceiling be escalated annually in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

1981 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax, S.C. 1980-81, c.48

- Effective January 1, 1981.

- Extended the definition of "eligible" child for the purposes of the Child Tax Credit to children entitled to receive Family Allowances in January of the following year, rather than in December of the taxation year.

1983 - An Act to amend the statute law relating to income tax, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.140

- Assented to March 30, 1983.

- Increased the maximum credit by $50 to $343 for the 1982 tax year.

- Maintained the maximum Child Tax Credit at $343. for 1983.

- Maintained the family income ceiling (above which the Child Tax Credit is reduced) at $26,330 for 1983 and subsequent years.

1986 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act and related statutes and to amend the Canada Pension Plan, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, the Financial Administration Act and the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax Act, 1986, c.6.

- Assented to February 13, 1986.

- Increased the maximum Child Tax Credit to $454 for 1986, $489 for 1987 and $524 for 1988. Child Tax Credit to be increased by CPI minus 3% after 1988.

- Decreased the family income threshold above which the Child Tax Credit begins to be reduced to $23,500 (from $26,330) for the 1986 and subsequent taxation years and indexed at CPI minus 3%.

- Introduced the program to prepay in November two-thirds of the maximum child tax credit to families with incomes up to two-thirds of the benefit reduction income threshold.

1988 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Canada Pension Plan, the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, 1977 and certain related Acts.

- Changed the definition of "Eligible child" to include a child who attains 18 years of age in the year. However, the recipient of Family Allowances for that child must be entitled to receive Family Allowances in respect of that child for the month the child turns 18 years of age.

- Increased Child Tax Credit by $35 to $559 per child for 1988.

- A $100 supplement for 1988 and $200 in 1989 and subsequent years in respect of children under age seven is added to the Child Tax Credit. The supplement is reduced by 25% of the child care expense deduction claimed for the year in respect of the child. The supplement is included as part of the prepayment of the Child Tax Credit.

Note: The child tax benefit proposed by the federal government in the February 1992 budget will replace the current Family Allowances, Child Tax Credit and refundable child tax credit by unifying these allowances, credits and refunds into a single monthly benefit and incorporating additional support for lower-income working families with children. This proposed child benefit is due to go into effect in January 1993. The last monthly Family Allowance payment will be made in December 1992. The final child credit and refundable child tax credit will be claimable when filing 1992 tax returns in the spring of 1993.

SECTION 13

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

1956 - Appropriation Act No. 6, 1956, S.C.1956, c.32, Schedule B, and Letter from Treasury Board to Deputy Minister, Department of Citizenship and Immigration, dated April 5, 1956

- Effective April 1, 1956.
- Authorized the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to pay to immigrants, and to Canadians resettling in Canada, Family Assistance at the rate of $5 per month for each child under the age of 16 not eligible for Family Allowance.
- Provided that payments be made every three months in arrears for up to 12 months.

1962 - Treasury Board Minute 592562 dated February 22, 1962

- Effective April 1, 1962.
- Increased Family Assistance payments in respect of the children of immigrants to $6 per month for children under ten years of age and $8 per month for children over ten and under 16 years of age (the same rate as Family Allowances).
- Changed Family Assistance payments to monthly from quarterly in arrears.

(Effective July 1, 1962, administrative responsibility for Family Assistance was transferred from the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to the Minister of Health and Welfare on the authority of an exchange of letters between the Deputy Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and the Deputy Minister of Welfare dated March 6 and March 26, 1962.)

1965 - Treasury Board Minute 634915 dated January 28, 1965

- Effective April 1, 1965.
- Approved the transfer of financial responsibility for Family Assistance payments from the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to the Minister of Health and Welfare.

1973 - The Family Allowances Act, 1973, S.C.1973-74, c.44, s.3

- Effective January 1, 1974.
- Discontinued the Family Assistance program but subsumed its provisions.

SECTION 14

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

1944 - The Family Allowances Act, 1944, S.C.1944, c.40

- Effective July 1, 1945.
- Provided for allowances for parents on behalf of children maintained by them at the following rates:

Age 0 to 5	$5 a month
Age 6 to 9	$6 a month
Age 10 to 12	$7 a month
Age 13 to 15	$8 a month

but the allowance to the fifth child was to be reduced by one dollar a month, to the sixth and seventh children by two dollars a month, and to the eighth and subsequent children by three dollars a month.

- Stipulated that an eligible child must have been born in Canada and resident since birth, or a resident for at least three years immediately preceding registration, or one whose father or mother was domiciled in Canada at the child's birth and for three years before that and up to the date of registration, or one whose father or mother was a member of the armed forces at the date of birth or who was born within one year of the parent's separation from the forces.
- Provided for allowances to cease when a child of compulsory school age fails to attend school or receive equivalent training in accordance with provincial law, or on the marriage of a female child.
- Allowances not to be subject to taxation, but adjustment may be made under the Income Tax Act in deductions on account of dependent children to avoid duplication of benefits.

1945 - An Act to amend the Income War Tax Act, S.C.1945, c.23, s.9

- In effect for 1945 taxation year.
- Provided that a taxpayer entitled to an exemption for a child who is eligible for Family Allowance returns in respect of each such child a sum equal to a percentage of the Family Allowance. This was graduated so that a married family head with income over $1,200 returned a sum equal to 10 percent of the Family Allowance received and a married family head with income over $3,000 returned an amount equal to 100 percent of the Family Allowance. Single family heads with incomes over $660 returned 10 percent of the Allowance, and this increased until those with incomes over $1,600 returned an amount equal to 100 percent. (These are set out in the following tables).

Family Allowances (cont.)

Percentages for 1945 Taxation Year

Married Persons

Income		Percentages
Over	but not over	
$1,200	$1,400	10
1,400	1,600	20
1,600	1,800	30
1,800	2,000	40
2,000	2,200	50
2,200	2,400	60
2,400	2,600	70
2,600	2,800	80
2,800	3,000	90
3,000		100

Single Persons

Income		Percentages
Over	but not over	
$ 660	$ 800	10
800	900	20
900	1,000	30
1,000	1,100	40
1,100	1,200	50
1,200	1,300	60
1,300	1,400	70
1,400	1,500	80
1,500	1,600	90
1,600		100

1946 - In effect for 1946 taxation year.

- Provided that the graduated taxation with the effect of reducing or eliminating the Family Allowance would be determined by both the income of the taxpayer and the number of children in respect of whom he receives Family Allowances, as set out in the following tables.

Family Allowances (cont.)

Percentages for 1946 and Subsequent Taxation Years

Married Persons

Income		Percentages	
Over	but not over	1,2 or 3 Dependants	4 or more Dependants
$1,300	$1,400	5	
1,400	1,600	15	10
1,600	1,800	25	20
1,800	2,000	35	30
2,000	2,200	45	40
2,200	2,400	55	50
2,400	2,600	65	60
2,600	2,800	75	70
2,800	3,000	85	80
3,000	3,200	95	85
3,200	3,400	100	90
3,400	3,600	100	95
3,600		100	100

Single Persons

Income		Percentages	
Over	but not over	1 or 2 Dependants	3 or more Dependants
$ 700	$ 800	5	
800	900	15	10
900	1,000	25	20
1,000	1,100	35	30
1,100	1,200	45	40
1,200	1,300	55	50
1,300	1,400	65	60
1,400	1,500	75	70
1,500	1,600	85	80
1,600	1,700	95	85
1,700	1,800	100	90
1,800	1,900	100	95
1,900		100	100

- Provided that members of the Canadian Armed Forces pay a tax similar to the above in respect of children for whom Family Allowances are received.

Family Allowances (cont.)

1946 - An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1944, S.C.1946, c.50

- Effective February 1, 1947.
- Provided that Family Allowances no longer be paid in respect of a child under 16 who ceases to be maintained by a parent.
- Authorized Family Allowances paid in respect of Indian and Eskimo children to be used for such purposes as may be authorized by regulation.

1947 - An Act to amend the Income War Tax Act, S.C.1947, c.63, ss.1,4

- In effect for 1947 taxation year.
- Abolished scaled return of amounts up to 100 percent of Family Allowance payments through reduced Income Tax exemptions.
- Instituted differential tax exemptions for children qualified and not qualified for Family Allowances. Exemptions were $100 for a child qualified for Family Allowance and $300 for child not so qualified. The effect of this was that the parent of a child eligible for the Allowance would gain financially by claiming the Allowance.

1949 - An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1944, S.C.1949, c.17

- Effective April 1, 1949.
- Reduced the residence qualification for a child not born in Canada from three years to one year.
- Abolished the reductions in allowances for the fifth and succeeding children.

1949 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, S.C.1949, c.25, s.10

- In effect for the 1949 income tax year.
- Increased income tax exemptions for children to $150 for children qualified for Family Allowances and to $400 for children not so qualified.

1949 - The Statute Law Amendment (Newfoundland) Act, S.C.1949, c.6, s.41

- Effective April 1, 1949.
- Extended the provisions of the Family Allowances Act, 1944, to children of Newfoundland.

Family Allowances (cont.)

- Provided that birth, residence and domicile in Newfoundland be deemed birth, residence and domicile in Canada for purposes of the Family Allowances Act.
- Provided that the Armed Forces of Canada includes any of the Armed Forces of Newfoundland, for purposes of the Family Allowances Act.

1951 - An Act respecting the Canadian Forces, S.C.1951, c.7, s.18

- Assented to December 21, 1951.
- Provided that no reduction in Family Allowances be made by reason of a dependant's allowance payable in respect of a dependent child of a member of the Armed Forces of Canada.

1957 - 1957 Exchequer Court Reports, p.83

- Judgement in the case of Angers v. Minister of National Revenue dated March 4, 1957, sustained the validity of the Family Allowances Act, 1944, based upon Parliament's general power to legislate for the peace, order and good government of Canada, and to impose and exempt from taxation. (The British North America Act, s.91.)

1957 - The Appropriation Act No.4, 1957, S.C.1957, c.14, ss.10 and 11

- Effective September 1, 1957.
- Authorized funds under Further Supplementary Estimates for payment of increased Family Allowances, as follows:

Age of Child	Old Rate	New Rate
0 - 5	$5	$6
6 - 9	$6	$6 (no change)
10 - 12	$7	$8
13 - 15	$8	$8 (no change)

1957 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, S.C.1957-58, c.17, s.2

- In effect for 1958 income tax year.
- Increased income tax exemptions for children to $250 for children qualified for Family Allowances and to $500 for children not so qualified.

Family Allowances (cont.)

1962 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, S.C.1962-63, c.8, s.4

- In effect for 1962 income tax year.
- Increased income tax exemptions for children to $300 for children qualified for Family Allowances and to $550 for children not so qualified.

1969 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, S.C.1968-69, c.44, s.5

- In effect for 1969 and subsequent income tax years.
- Changed criteria for exemptions for income tax purposes of $300 and $550 respectively from children eligible for Family Allowances and children not so eligible to children under and over the age of 16.

1973 - An Act to amend the Family Allowances and the Youth Allowances Act, S.C.1973-74, c.34

- Effective October 1, 1973.
- Repealed sections of Family Allowances Act and Youth Allowances Act relating to amounts of allowances.
- Substituted monthly allowance of $12 for previous Family and Youth Allowances.

1973 - The Family Allowances Act, 1973, S.C.1973-74, c.44

- Effective January 1, 1974.
- Repealed and replaced Family Allowances Act (R.S.C.1970, c. F-1) and Youth Allowances Act (R.S.C.1970, c.Y-1) and discontinued the Family Assistance program.
- Authorized payment of Family Allowances from Consolidated Revenue Fund.
- Eligibility: children under 18 wholly or substantially maintained by a parent resident in Canada; at least one parent a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant or a non-immigrant admitted to Canada under prescribed circumstances.
- Set allowance at $20 per month, but permitted provinces to vary federal allowances according to ages of children or number of children in family or both, subject to the provision that the minimum monthly payment for a province not be less than 60 percent of the monthly federal rate.
- Provided that allowance be paid to mother or authorized person or agency.
- Exempted Family Allowances from any law relating to bankruptcy or insolvency.

Family Allowances (cont.)

- Provided for Special Allowances for children under age 18 living in foster homes or institutions in Canada and wholly maintained by a federal or provincial department or agency or by an agency appointed by a province.

- Set amount of Special Allowances at the same rate as federal monthly Family Allowances, not subject to provincial variation.

- Special Allowances not subject to tax and may not be attached.

- Provided that Family Allowances and Special Allowances be indexed using the Consumer Price Index, but not be reduced if the Consumer Price Index declines.

- Authorized the establishment of a tribunal to rescind, amend or uphold decisions under the Act appealed by any dissatisfied person, department, agency or institution.

- Amended the Income Tax Act to include Family Allowances for income tax purposes, the Allowance to be taxable as income of the parent claiming a tax exemption for the child. Family Allowances payable by a province are not subject to income tax provided the province does not permit income tax deduction for a child for whom the provincial family allowance is received.

1976 - Government Expenditures Restraint Act, S.C. 1976-77, c.3

- Effective January 1, 1976, suspended the annual escalation of Family Allowances and Special Allowances for the year 1976 only with the effect that the monthly Family Allowance per child remained at the 1975 rate of $22.08 during the year 1976. Full escalation resumed in January 1977 (s.6).

1979 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act to provide for a Child Tax Credit and to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973, S.C. 1978-79, c.5

- Assented to December 12, 1978.

- Reduced the monthly Family Allowance rate for 1979 to $20 per child, from the 1978 rate of $25.68. Retained annual escalation from 1980 onwards.

- Maintained indexation of Special Allowances ($27.99 in 1979).

1981 - Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, S.C. 1980-81, c.47

- Assented to February 19, 1981.

- Amended the Family Allowances Act to provide authority for employees of the Department of National Health and Welfare to act as Commissioners for Oaths for the purposes of the Act (s. 15).

1983 - An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, 1973, S.C. 1980-81-82-83, c.139

- Assented to February 17, 1983.

- Limited increases in the indexation of Family Allowances to 6% in 1983 and 5% in 1984 (i.e. the 1983 benefit was $28.52; the benefit in 1984 was $29.95 monthly).

1986 - An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act, S.C. 1986, c.12

- Assented to March 26, 1986.

- Limited increases in the annual indexation of Family Allowances to the amount by which inflation exceeds 3% (effective 1986).

- Provided for the presumption of death of a child who has disappeared, and empowered the Minister to determine the date of death for the purposes of administering the Family Allowances Act. The date is subject to change on the basis of new evidence, or may be revoked should the child reappear.

- Provided that, the Minister may remit all, or any portion of, benefits wrongly received by a person or institution, where it would be unreasonable to attempt to collect such funds.

- Provided that, where allowances have been denied due to departmental error/advice, the Minister will ensure that the applicant receives all benefits to which he is entitled.

1989 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, the Old Age Security Act, the Public Utilities Income Tax Transfer Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and a related Act.

- Recovered all or a portion of Family Allowance payments at a rate of 15% from Canadians whose individual net income exceeded $50,000. The recovery rate of 15% would be phased in over 3 years beginning in 1989. The threshold would be indexed annually by the amount by which inflation exceeds 3%. For 1990, the threshold was $50,850.

Note: The child tax benefit proposed by the federal government in the February 1992 budget will replace the current Family Allowances, Child Tax Credit and the refundable child tax credit by unifying these allowances, credits and refunds into a single monthly benefit and incorporating additional support for lower-income working families with children. This proposed child benefit is due to go into effect in January 1993. The last monthly Family Allowance payment will be made in December 1992. The final child credit and refundable child tax credit will be claimable when filing 1992 tax returns in the spring of 1993.

SECTION 15

YOUTH ALLOWANCES

YOUTH ALLOWANCES

1964 - The Youth Allowances Act, S.C.1964-65, c.23

- Effective September 1, 1964.
- Allowances payable to parents for "dependent youths", that is, young people of 16 and 17 who attend school or university on a full-time basis or who cannot do so because of mental or physical infirmity.
- Rate set at $10 per month.
- Allowances payable from September to June each year provided that any month in which a youth does not attend is part of school or university holiday, and youth resumes attendance thereafter. Allowance not payable during July or August, except to those who are infirm, but may be paid for those months on resumption of attendance in the fall.
- Allowances are not payable to residents of a province providing Schooling Allowances. (Quebec was the only such province.) Quebec receives equivalent compensation from the federal government through the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Revisions Act 1964 (see below).
- Allowances cease when the youth ceases to be a dependent youth, or parent ceases to maintain him.
- Allowances not subject to taxation as taxable income.
- Income tax deduction that may be claimed for a dependent child over age 16 ($550) is not affected by fact that dependent child is receiving a Youth Allowance.

1964 - Federal-Provincial Fiscal Revision Act, 1964, S.C.1964-65, c.26, s.6

- Effective April 1, 1964.
- Provided for the revision of certain fiscal arrangements with the provinces and to provide adjustments of fiscal arrangements and taxation provisions consequential upon the provision of Youth Allowances to parents resident in certain provinces (Quebec was the only such province).

1969 - An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, S.C.1968-69, c.44, s.5

- In effect for 1969 and subsequent income tax years.
- Changed criteria for exemptions for income tax purposes of $300 and $550 from children respectively eligible for Family Allowances and children not so eligible, to children respectively under and over the age of 16. (This meant that the exemption of $550 continued to be allowed in respect of recipients of Youth Allowances.)

Youth Allowances (cont.)

1973 - An Act to amend the Family Allowances Act and the Youth Allowances Act, S.C.1973-74, c.34

- Effective October 1, 1973. (Interim measure pending new Family Allowances Act.)
- Substituted monthly allowance of $12 for previous Family and Youth Allowances.

1973 - The Family Allowances Act, 1973, S.C.1973-74, c.44 s.26

- Effective January 1, 1974.
- Repealed and replaced Youth Allowances Act.

SECTION 16

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX CREDIT

(GST CREDIT)

An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act, Criminal Code, Customs Act, Customs Tariff, Excise Act, Income Tax Act, Statistics Act, and Tax Court of Canada Act, c.45.

- Effective January 1, 1991.

- Replaced the manufacturers' sales tax credit.

- The amount of the credit paid is based on the previous year's income tax return and is paid four times a year.

- The maximum credit is $190 per adult and $100 per child for those with family incomes up to the Child Tax Credit threshold of $25,215. For single parents, the first child credit would also be $190. A $100 "living alone supplement" is paid to single parents and single individuals. The supplement is phased in at the basic personal credit of $6,175 and reduced, along with the adult and child credits, by 5% of income above the benefit reduction threshold. The credits and the threshold will be indexed at 3% CPI in subsequent years.

SECTION 17

VETERANS' BENEFITS

VETERANS' BENEFITS

1916 - Order-in-Council, P.C.1334, dated June 3, 1916

- Established pension regulations superseding Pay and Allowance Regulations of the Department of National Defence.
- Established a Board of Pension Commissioners to award and administer pensions to veterans of World War I.
- Introduced the insurance principle (previously disability or death had to be directly due to service to qualify for payments).

1918 - The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment Act, S.C.1918, c.42

- Assented to May 24, 1918.
- Established the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment to have responsibility for matters relating to the re-establishment in civil life of veterans of World War I and the care of their dependants.

1918 - Order-in-Council, P.C.3070, dated December 21, 1918

- Introduced the principle of prospective dependency for parents of deceased members of the forces.

1919 - The Pension Act, S.C.1919, c.43

- Effective September 1, 1919.
- Provided for pensions for disabled members of the armed forces and their dependants on a scale from $30 annually for rank and file members with five percent disability to $2,700 annually for the highest ranks with 100 percent disability, with additional pension for dependants.
- Provided for pensions for dependants on the death of a member of the armed forces on a scale from $480 annually for the widow or dependent parent of rank and file members to $2,160 for the widow or dependent parent of the highest ranks, with additional pension for other dependants.

1919 - The Soldier Settlement Act, 1919, S.C.1919, c.71

- Assented to July 7, 1919.
- Defined "settler" as a person who at any time during the 1914-1918 war had been engaged on active service in a military force of Canada, of His Majesty or any of His Majesty's allies ordinarily resident in Canada at the time

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

of enlistment, or of His Majesty or any British Dominion or Colony, and the widow of any person who would have been eligible to be a settler if he had lived.

- Authorized the Soldier Settlement Board to purchase or acquire land, and to issue free to any settler a soldier grant of not more than 160 acres.
- Authorized the Board to make provision for instruction in agriculture and economics for settlers, and for allowances.
- Authorized the Board to make advances not exceeding $1,000 to settlers for permanent improvements to land.
- Authorized the Board to make advances not exceeding $3,500 to settlers for the discharge of encumbrances on agricultural land.

1920 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1920, c.62

- Effective September 1, 1920.
- Authorized a cost of living bonus increasing the basic rate of pension by fifty percent and in such a manner as to equalize pensions for all ranks below that of captain. (The rates thus established remained in force until the 1948 amendments.)
- Increased the maximum additional allowance for helplessness in total disability cases for all ranks below that of captain from $450 to $750 per annum.
- Authorized an allowance not exceeding $180 per annum towards the support of each parent of a disabled pensioner previously supported by him if he continued such support.
- Authorized a burial grant not exceeding $100 for disabled pensioners dying in indigent circumstances, irrespective of whether or not death was due to service.
- Authorized a pension not exceeding $180 per annum for each parent of a deceased soldier, if supported by him, in addition to the pension for his widow and/or children.
- Authorized an additional allowance up to $180 per annum when a deceased soldier left more than one parent who was wholly or substantially supported by him.
- Provided for the offer of final payments by agreement to pensioners when disabilities were assessed at less than 15 percent.
- Provided for the supplementation of pensions of Canadians who served with the British forces in the South African War to the Canadian Expeditionary Force (World War I) rates, and similarly for pensions payable for service in the Fenian Raid or Northwest Rebellion.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1921 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1921, c.45

- Effective September 1, 1921.
- Provided that death or disability incurred after the war must be directly attributable to the performance of military duties to be pensionable.
- Provided for supplementation to the Canadian Expeditionary Force (C.E.F.) rates pensions in force for disabilities incurred during military service previous to the war.

1922 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1922, c.38

- Effective September 1, 1922.
- Authorized a bonus of one year's pension for the children of a deceased pensioner in cases where no pension was payable in respect of the father's death.
- Authorized the continuation of additional pension for a pensioner's wife after her death under certain conditions in cases where there were surviving children.

1923 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1923, c.62

- Assented to June 30, 1923.
- Established the Federal Appeal Board consisting of five to seven members appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, the majority of whom had served in the Naval, Military or Air forces of Canada, to hear and give decisions upon appeals concerning refusals of pension by the Board of Pension Commissioners.

1924 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1924, c.60

- Assented to July 19, 1924.
- Authorized the members of the Board of Pension Commissioners and the Federal Appeal Board jointly to make compassionate awards in certain types of cases.
- Provided for the payment of one month's pension to the dependant or dependants of a deceased pensioner pending consideration of his claim, provided the deceased pensioner was pensioned at fifty percent or higher at the time of his death.
- Provided for the restoration of pension to a remarried widow whose second husband had died within five years of the date of remarriage.

1925 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1925, c.49

- Assented to June 27, 1925.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Provided that disability incurred during service, although not manifest until subsequent thereto, nevertheless be pensionable.
- Made permanent the cost of living bonus and included it as part of the basic award of pension.
- Made special provision for tuberculous pensioners when during treatment the presence of tubercle bacilli was discovered or it was proven the disease was moderately advanced and clinically active.
- Authorized a special allowance for wear and tear of clothing for certain amputation cases and pensioners compelled to wear prosthetic appliances.

1928 - The Department of Pensions and National Health Act, S.C.1928, c.39

- Assented to June 11, 1928.
- Repealed and replaced the Department of Soldiers' Civil Reestablishment Act and the Department of Health Act.
- Established the Department of Pensions and National Health, the duties and powers of the Minister to include responsibility for veterans of World War I, including care and treatment, grants and allowances, and sheltered employment.

1928 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1928, c.38

- Effective September 1, 1928.
- Abolished time limits within which applications for disability pensions might be made.
- Removed the time limit relating to the automatic award of pension for certain children of deceased pensioners.
- Provided for the continuation of a widow's pension after her death to a daughter taking care of other minor children.
- Provided for a payment not exceeding $50 for last illness expenses in addition to burial expenses of deceased pensioners.
- Widened the scope of the Act to include, under certain conditions, widows who married subsequent to the appearance of the disability which resulted in their husbands' deaths.

1930 - The War Veterans Allowance Act, S.C.1930, c.48

- Effective September 1, 1930.
- Provided for allowances for veterans aged 60 or permanently unemployable because of physical or mental disability, and for allowances on behalf of their wives and dependent children.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Set the maximum annual allowance for a single veteran at $240, and for a married veteran or a widower with a child or children at $480.
- Set the maximum allowable income limit, excluding the allowance, at $125 for a single veteran and $250 for a married veteran or a widower with a child or children.
- Set maximum casual earnings exemption at $125 per annum.
- Established the War Veterans' Allowance Committee to determine whether any allowance should be made, suspended or revoked, what should be the amount, or whether payment of any allowance should be made to the recipient or to some other person for administration on his behalf.
- Charged the Minister of Pensions and National Health with the administration of the Act, subject to the direction of the War Veterans' Allowance Committee.

1930 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1930, c.35

- Effective October 1, 1930.
- Authorized the Governor in Council to appoint a nine-member Pension Tribunal and a three-member Pension Appeal Court.
- Provided for the constitution of a branch of the Department of Pensions and National Health to be known as the "Veterans' Bureau" to be administered by a chief pensions advocate subject to the direction of the Minister.
- Charged the Pension Tribunal with the duty of hearing and disposing of all applications under this Act which might be brought before it.
- Provided that appeals from decisions of the Pension Tribunal might be made to the Pension Appeal Court.
- Abolished the Federal Appeal Court and provided that any applications previously disposed of by it might be renewed at any time.
- Abolished time limits for applications in death cases.
- Abolished final payments by agreement.
- Provided for pensions for widows if marriage had taken place before the appearance of the injury or disease causing their husbands' deaths, with certain exceptions.

1933 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1932-33, c.45

- Effective September 30, 1933.
- Abolished the Pension Tribunal and Board of Pension Commissioners.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Established the Canadian Pension Commission with powers and functions similar to those of the Board of Pension Commissioners, but with greatly enlarged personnel, the Commission to consist of not less than eight members, which might be increased to twelve.
- Provided that quorums of the Commission to consist of not less than two members hold sittings throughout the Dominion to hear dissatisfied applicants (thus continuing the principle of personal appearance and public hearings as permitted with the Pension Tribunal).
- Stipulated that no pension be reduced or cancelled due to a change in the basis of entitlement until the pensioner had an opportunity to appear before a quorum.
- Provided for the appointment of a reviewing officer to review favourable decisions of the Pension Tribunal and quorums of the Commission, and to decide if an appeal on behalf of the Crown should be entered with the Pension Appeal Court.
- Set a deadline for payment of additional pension to wives and children of disabled pensioners: no such payments to be made unless the marriage or the birth of the children took place before May 1, 1933.

1936 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act 1930, S.C.1936, c.48

- Effective June 23, 1936.
- Repealed the provision for a War Veterans Allowance Committee and substituted therefor a War Veterans Allowance Board to consider and adjudicate upon all questions relating to the award, increase, decrease, suspension or cancellation of any allowance under the Act or for the recovery of any overpayment which may have been made.
- Provided for special consideration to veterans over 55 years of age who because of pre-aging combined with disabilities were incapable of maintaining themselves.
- Charged the Minister of Pensions and National Health with the administration of the Act, subject to the direction of the War Veterans Allowance Board.

1936 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1936, c.44

- Effective August 1, 1936.
- Redefined "improper conduct" to permit payment of pensions for accidental wounds.
- Authorized the Commission to continue pensions awarded in error under certain conditions when discontinuance would

cause undue hardship.

- Provided for the appointment of ad hoc Commissioners if and as required, up to five.
- Set the time limit for applications at July 1, 1936 for applicants who did not serve in a theatre of actual war, and at January 1, 1940 for those who did so serve, effective June 1, 1936.
- Abolished the time limit of ten years relating to pensions for widows of pensioners who were receiving pension in Classes 1 to 5 at the time of death.
- Restricted retroactive payments on first awards to twelve months, and granted discretion to the Commission to grant an additional six months in special cases where hardship and distress might otherwise ensue.
- Established the procedure for second hearings to ensure full and complete preparation of claims as a final step before the personal hearing stage.

1938 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1930, S.C.1938, c.16

- Effective April 7, 1938.
- Provided for three classes of veterans:
  - a) veterans who had attained the age of 60 years;
  - b) veterans aged less than 60 years, but permanently unemployable because of disabilities;
  - c) veterans who, although not qualifying under a) or b), had served in a theatre of actual war and were in the opinion of the Board incapable and unlikely to become capable of maintaining themselves because of economic handicaps combined with physical or mental disability or insufficiency.
- Extended the benefits of the Act to veterans of the South African War provided they had landed in South Africa prior to June 1, 1902.

1939 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1939, c.32

- Effective July 1, 1939.
- Extended the time limit for applications from those who served in a theatre of actual war from January 1, 1940 to January 1, 1942, and gave the Commission discretion to entertain, in special circumstances, applications made after that date.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Provided that widows of pensioners who were married prior to January 1, 1930 and whose husbands were pensioned at the time of death at the rate of 50 percent or higher be automatically pensionable, irrespective of the cause of death (previously the rate had been 80 percent).
- Abolished the Pension Appeal Court and transferred final appeals and decisions to the appeal boards of the Commission.

1941 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1940-41, c.23

- Effective September 1, 1939.
- Clarified the provision that the Commission was the sole authority on questions of interpretation.
- Extended the provisions of the Pension Act to members of the Canadian forces serving in World War II and exempted such members from certain time limits for applications for disability pensions and for additional pensions for wives and children.
- Restricted the "insurable principle" to World War II members of the forces who served in a theatre of actual war, and provided that after May 21, 1940 when service was wholly rendered in Canada disability or death must have arisen out of or been directly connected with military service to be pensionable.
- Abolished the time limit for applications for veterans who served in a theatre of actual war during World War I.
- Provided for the supplementation, during residence in Canada, to Canadian rates of British World War II pensions awarded to or in respect of ex-members of the United Kingdom forces who were domiciled in Canada at any time during the four years next preceding the date of commencement of that war; and made available to such pensioners all the benefits of the Pension Act not provided in the British legislation.

1941 - Order-in-Council, P.C.113/9400, dated December 3, 1941

- Effective November 15, 1941.
- Authorized the War Veterans Allowance Board to award a Supplementary Allowance to a veteran who was in receipt of the maximum allowance payable under the War Veterans Allowance Act and who was, in the opinion of the Board, incapable of augmenting his income by earnings and would otherwise experience privation.
- Set the maximum Supplementary Allowance at $5 per month for a bachelor or widower without children and $10 per month for a married man or a widower with a child or children.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1943 - Order-in-Council, P.C.101/6395, dated August 13, 1943

- Effective April 1, 1943.
- Extended the provisions of the War Veterans Allowance Act to the widow of a veteran, subject to the condition that she had attained the age of 55 years, or was so incapacitated by mental or physical disability as to be incapable and unlikely to become capable of earning a livelihood.

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.2/602, dated January 31, 1944

- Effective January 1, 1944.
- Increased the Supplementary Allowance payable to a bachelor, widow or widower without children to $10.41 per month, and to a married man, widow or widower with a child or children to $20.83 per month.

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.117/3088, dated April 27, 1944

- Increased the pension rate for a parent from $15 to $30 monthly where the member of the forces was also survived by a widow and/or children entitled to pension.

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.5/3655, dated May 15, 1944

- Extended the provision of pensions to wives whose marriages had been contracted between May 1, 1933 and May 1, 1944 and to children born as a result of unions contracted within those dates, with effect from May 1, 1944.
- Extended the provisions of the Pension Act to widows whose marriages had been contracted between January 1, 1930 and May 1, 1944, with effect from May 1, 1944.

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.164/7746, dated October 4, 1944

- Effective September 1, 1944.
- Provided for the payment of allowances awarded by the War Veterans Allowance Board to orphaned dependent children of veterans.
- Set the maximum annual allowance at $360 for one orphan, $648 for two orphans and $730 for three or more orphans of one veteran.

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.162/7746, dated October 4, 1944

- Effective October 1, 1944.
- Extended the provisions of the War Veterans Allowance Act to former members of the North West Field Force, and to World War II veterans.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.160/7746, dated October 4, 1944

- Effective October 1, 1944.
- Extended the provisions of the War Veterans Allowance Act to former members of the Canadian forces who served during both World War I and World War II, but not in a theatre of actual war on either occasion.

1944 - The Department of Veterans Affairs Act, S.C.1944-45, c.19

- Effective October 21, 1944.
- Dissolved the Department of Pensions and National Health and established the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide for the care, treatment, training or re-establishment in civil life of war veterans and other designated persons, and for the care of their dependants.

1944 - Order-in-Council, P.C.9553, dated December 27, 1944

- Removed all time limits for the preparation and presentation of claims concerning pension applications arising out of World War II.

1944 - The War Service Grants Act, 1944, S.C.1944-45, c.51

- Effective January 1, 1945.
- Provided for the payment of War Service Gratuities and the grant of Re-establishment Credits to members of the forces in respect of service in World War II.

1945 - Order-in-Council, P.C.213/185, dated January 10, 1945

- Increased pension rates for female veterans to parity with male veterans.

1945 - The Veterans Rehabilitation Act, S.C.1945 (2nd Session), c.35

- Assented to December 18, 1945.
- Authorized the Minister of Veterans Affairs to promote the rehabilitation of veterans by making allowances to veterans of World War II temporarily incapacitated, out of work, awaiting returns from a business, or pursuing courses of training, and by paying the cost of courses or training for and making loans to students.
- Provided that a veteran who had completed 15 weeks in insurable employment within a period of 12 months be deemed to have been in insurable employment prior to the 15 week

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

period for a period equal to his service in the armed forces after June 30, 1941, for the purposes of the Unemployment Insurance Act 1940.

- Provided for contributions to the Unemployment Insurance Fund out of moneys appropriated by Parliament of an amount equal to employer's and employee's contributions for the veteran's period of service.

1946 - The War Veterans Allowance Act, 1946, S.C.1946, c.75

- Effective August 1, 1946.
- Repealed and replaced the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1930, as amended.
- Extended the provisions of the Act to female veterans aged 55 as compared with age 60 for male veterans.
- Cancelled the Supplementary Allowance, and increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $365 for a single veteran or a widow without children, and to $730 for a married veteran, widower, or widow with a dependent child or children. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding the allowance, remained unchanged at $125 for single status and $250 for married status.)
- Charged the Minister of Veterans Affairs with the administration of the Act, except for the power, authority and jurisdiction conferred upon the War Veterans Allowance Board to deal with and adjudicate upon applications for allowances.

1946 - The Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, S.C.1946, c.43

- Assented to August 31, 1946.
- Provided for pensions and allowances to Canadian nationals serving in specified essential occupations and who suffered disability as a result of World War II, in accordance with the rates set forth in the Pension Act.
- Specified that claims for pensions, allowances and compensation be dealt with and adjudicated upon as under the Pension Act.
- Provided that the Act be administered by the Canadian Pension Commission.

1946 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1946, c.62

- Assented to August 31, 1946.
- Provided for the restoration of the "insurance principle" for members of the forces whose service had been rendered wholly in Canada during World War II. Effective June 1,

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1946 (Order-in-Council, P.C.2077, dated May 23, 1946).

- Gave discretion to the Commission in World War II disability and death claims to make an additional retroactive award not exceeding an additional 18 months' pension under certain exceptional circumstances. (This made it possible to antedate the commencement of pensions up to a period of three years prior to the date of decision in such cases.)
- Provided for the continuation of helplessness allowance to blind pensioners while under in-patient treatment.
- Extended all benefits of the Pension Act, during residence in Canada, to persons of pre-war Canadian domicile who served in the forces of members of the British Commonwealth of Nations or forces allied with His Majesty during World War I or World War II and to the dependants of such persons.
- Widened the power of the Commission in extending the "benefit of the doubt" to applicants.

1946 - The Women's Royal Naval Services and the South African Military Nursing Service (Benefits) Act, S.C.1946, c.34

- Assented to July 26, 1946.
- The Allied Veterans Benefit Act, S.C.1946, c.36
- Effective January 22, 1946.
- The Fire Fighters War Service Benefits Act, S.C.1946, c.52
- Effective September 1, 1946.
- The Special Operators War Services Benefits Act, S.C.1946, c.64
- Assented to August 31, 1946.
- The Supervisors War Service Benefits Act, S.C.1946, c.66
- Assented to August 31, 1946.
- Extended specified re-establishment benefits provided for members of the Canadian Forces during World War II to persons specified in each statute.

1948 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1948, c.23

- Assented to May 14, 1948.
- Deleted the expression "was wilfully and deliberately concealed" from the clause defining the grounds on which pension entitlement might be granted for pre-enlistment disabilities aggravated during service in a theatre of war.
- Increased the helplessness allowance for a pensioner totally disabled and requiring the services of an attendant from a minimum of $250 and maximum of $750 per annum to $480 and

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

$1,400 respectively. In addition, removed the discrimination between ranks to make the new rates payable to all ranks. Effective October 1, 1947.

- Extended the provisions of the Act to widows of World War I veterans who were married between May 1, 1944 and May 1, 1948.
- Extended the provisions of the Act to wives and children of veterans of World War I who were married or born between May 1, 1944 and May 1, 1948.
- Increased the pension for a dependent parent or parents of a member of the forces who had left a widow and/or children entitled to pension from $360 to $480 per annum.
- Extended the benefits of the Act to widows of deceased members of the Canadian forces who had served in the South African War and had been awarded supplementary pension under the Pension Act. (Previously pension could not be awarded from Canadian funds even though death was service-related unless a basic award was made by the United Kingdom authorities to the widow.)
- Authorized applicants who had neglected to exercise their right of appeal to the Pension Appeal Court or an Appeal Board of the Commission to apply for leave to reopen their claims with a view to establishing that the decision of the Federal Appeal Board, Pension Tribunal, or Quorum was in error.
- Amended the "benefit of the doubt" clause to make it mandatory that all reasonable inferences and presumptions were to be exercised in the applicant's favour, effective June 1, 1948.
- Increased the basic rates of pension for disability and death, effective October 1, 1947.
- Provided for assessment of pensions at the nearest multiple of five, i.e., 48 percent disability became 50 percent, and 46 percent disability became 45 percent.

1948 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1946, S.C.1948, c.74

- Effective October 1, 1947.
- Extended the eligibility provisions to deserted or divorced veterans with a child or children.
- Increased the annual allowance for a single veteran to $485 and for a married veteran or a widow or widower with a child or children to $850. (The allowable income limits, excluding the allowance, remained unchanged.)
- Exempted casual earnings from inclusion in the calculation of allowable income.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1949 - The Appropriation Act, No.7, S.C.1949 (2nd Session), c.42, Schedule A, Vote 537

- Effective April 1, 1949.
- Authorized the establishment of an Assistance Fund (War Veterans Allowance) from which would be provided supplementary assistance in cases of acute financial distress among recipients of War Veterans Allowances.

1949 - An Act to approve the Terms of Union of Newfoundland with Canada, S.C.1949, c.1, s.38 and Schedule

- Effective April 1, 1949.
- Provided that Canada make available to Newfoundland veterans and their dependants the same awards of pension as were available to Canadian veterans under similar circumstances.

1950 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1946, S.C.1950, c.54

- Assented to June 30, 1950.
- Extended the definition of veteran to include former members of His Majesty's forces other than Canadian who have lived in Canada for a total period of at least 20 years, effective April 1, 1950.
- Authorized the Minister of Veterans Affairs to appoint District Authorities to whom would be delegated functions previously performed by the War Veterans Allowance Board relating to the award, increase, decrease, suspension or cancellation of any allowance under the Act and to the recovery of any overpayment which may have been made.
- Provided that an appeal may be taken from an adjudication of the District Authority to the Board by the applicant or recipient aggrieved by the adjudication.
- Provided that the Board may on its own motion review any adjudication of a District Authority and shall deal with it as though an appeal from the adjudication had been taken.

1951 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1951, c.56

- Assented to June 30, 1951.
- Abolished the means test for continuance of additional pension for educational extensions on behalf of children up to the age of 21.
- Provided for the payment of pensions at orphan rates in respect of children of deceased members of the forces who had died leaving a widow and children.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Authorized increased payments in respect of burial from $100 to $110 for the funeral services, and an additional amount of $25 for cemetery charges. Provided also for the erection of a standard headstone in cases where an award of a funeral grant was made.
- Extended the provisions of the Act to widows of World War I veterans whose marriages had taken place between May 1, 1948 and May 1, 1951.
- Extended the provisions of the Act to the wives and children of veterans of World War I whose marriages or births had taken place between May 1, 1944 and May 1, 1951.

1951 - The Veterans Benefit Act, 1951, S.C.1950-51, c.62

- Effective October 9, 1951, to November 20, 1952.
- Authorized the extension of benefits for veterans of World War II to ex-members of the special force who served in the special force subsequent to July 5, 1950.

1951 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1951 (2nd Session), c.19

- Effective January 1, 1952.
- Increased annual pensions for disability to $75 for majors, equivalent ranks and all ranks and ratings below with a five percent disability to $2,700 for brigadiers-general and equivalent and higher ranks with a 100 percent disability.
- Increased annual pensions to $1,200 for widows of captains, equivalent ranks and all ranks and ratings below and to $2,160 for widows of brigadiers and all equivalent and higher ranks, with additional pension for other dependants.

1952 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1952, c.47

- Assented to July 4, 1952.
- Increased the allowance for wear and tear of clothing to a pensioner in receipt of pension on account of a leg amputation above a Symes' amputation from $54 to $72 per annum, and for an arm amputation at or above the wrist from $22 to $30 per annum.
- Increased the discretionary allowance which the Commission was empowered to make to pensioners for the relief of whose disability an appliance must be worn or treatment applied which causes wear and tear of clothing, from a maximum of $54 to $72 per annum.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Provided, in cases where a member of the forces had died leaving more than one parent or person entitled to pension, that the award to such person could be increased by an additional amount not exceeding $300 per annum instead of $180.
- Provided that no action or other proceeding should lie against the Crown as a result of disability or death for which pension was awarded or awardable.

1952 - The War Veterans Allowance Act, S.C.1952, c.54

- Assented to July 4, 1952.
- Repealed and replaced the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1946, as amended.
- Increased the annual rate of allowance payable to $600 for single status, and to $1,080 for married status; reduced the annual allowable income limit, excluding allowances, to $120 for both single and married status. Retroactive to January 1, 1952.
- Increased the annual rate of allowance payable for one, two, or three or more orphans of one veteran to $480, $840 and $1,020 respectively; and established the annual allowable income limits, excluding the allowance, at $120, $160, and $180 respectively. Retroactive to January 1, 1952.
- Included provisions for assisting employable veterans.
- Authorized additional functions of the Board:

  to advise the Minister relating to matters requiring regulations by the Governor in Council for carrying the purposes and provisions of the Act into effect;

  to adjudicate pursuant to specific sections of the Act where it has sole jurisdiction;

  to review and alter, at any time, its own former decisions.

1953 - The Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, S.C.1952-53, c.27

- Effective July 1, 1953.
- Provided for federal assistance for the higher education of children of certain deceased members and former members of the armed forces and of other specified persons.

1954 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1953-54, c.62

- Assented to June 26, 1954.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Provided for additional pension for legally adopted children.
- Clothed the Commission with discretion to continue additional pension at the married rates in cases where a pensioner's marriage had been legally dissolved and the pensioner continued to maintain a household for the care of his child or cnildren.
- Extended the provisions of the Act to widows of World War I veterans whose marriages had taken place between May 1, 1951 and May 1, 1954.
- Extended the provisions of the Act to wives of World War I veterans whose marriages had taken place between May 1, 1951 and May 1, 1954.
- Extended to World War I cases the provision whereby the Commission is given discretion to make an additional retroactive award not exceeding an amount equivalent to an additional 18 months' pension under certain exceptional circumstances. (The effect was that it became possible, in both World War I and World War II cases, to ante-date the commencement of pension in both disability and death claims up to a period of three years prior to the date of decision in such cases.)

1954 - The Veterans Benefit Act, 1954, S.C.1953-54, c.65

- Assented to June 26, 1954.
- Repealed and replaced the Veterans Benefit Act, 1951.
- Preserved all rights, benefits and privileges that existed prior to the coming into force of this Act.
- Extended benefits for veterans of world War II to veterans of the special force who served in a theatre of operations with the special force prior to July 27, 1953.

1955 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952, S.C.1955, c.13

- Effective April 1, 1955.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $720 for single status and to $1,296 for married status; the annual allowable income limit, excluding allowances, remained unchanged at $120 for single status and was increased to $144 for married status.
- Increased the maximum allowable income limit excluding allowances to $240 for one orphan, $360 for two orphans, and $420 for three or more orphans. (The maximum annual rate of allowance payable to orphans remained unchanged.)

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1957 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1957-58, c.19

- Effective July 1, 1957.
- Changed the scale of annual pensions for disability to $90 for lieutenant-colonels, equivalent ranks and all ranks and ratings below with a five percent disability, to $2,700 for brigadiers and equivalent and higher ranks with a 100 percent disability, and additional pension for dependants.
- Changed the scale of annual pensions for death to $1,380 for the widow or dependent parent of majors, equivalent ranks and all ranks and ratings below, to $2,160 for the widow or dependent parent of brigadiers and equivalent and higher ranks, with additional pension for other dependants.

1957 - Public Accounts, 1957-58, page ZZ-12

- Effective July 1, 1957.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable for married status to $1,440; increased the annual allowable income limit, excluding allowances to $240 for single status and to $180 for married status. (The allowance for single status remained unchanged.)

1957 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952, S.C.1957-58, c.7

- Assented to November 21, 1957.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $840 for single status, and the annual allowable income limit, excluding allowances to $300 for married status. (The maximum allowance for married status and the annual allowable income limit for single status remained unchanged.) Effective November 1, 1957.
- Extended the benefits of the Act to Canadian veterans who had served in the United Kingdom during World War I for at least 365 days prior to November 12, 1918. Effective November 1, 1957.
- Reduced from 20 to 10 years the period of residence in Canada required for ex-Imperial and Allied "dual service" veterans to be eligible.

1960 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952, S.C.1960, c.36

- Effective August 1, 1960.
- Authorized the payment of the allowance to a recipient who visits or resides outside Canada if on the day of departure, the recipient:

is a recipient under Section 3 of the War Veterans Allowance Act;

has been a resident of Canada for the 12 preceding months;

continues to meet the other conditions of the Act as they would apply to a recipient in Canada.

- Reduced from 20 to 10 years the period of residence in Canada required for ex-Imperials or Allied veterans of World War II to be eligible.

1961 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1960-61, c.10

- Effective March 1, 1961.
- Changed the scale of annual pension for disability to $108 for colonels and all ranks and ratings equivalent and below with a five percent disability, to $2,700 for brigadiers and all ranks equivalent and higher with a 100 percent disability, with additional pension for dependants.
- Changed the scale of annual pension for death to $1,656 for the widow or dependent parent of colonels and all ranks and ratings equivalent and below, and to $2,160 for the widow or dependent parent of brigadiers and all equivalent and higher ranks, with additional pension for other dependants.
- Authorized the payment of certain supplementary pensions.

1961 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952, S.C.1960-61, c.39

- Effective June 1, 1961.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $1,008 for single status, and to $1,728 for married status; increased the annual allowable income limit, excluding allowances, to $288 for single status and to $360 for married status.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable for one, two, or three or more orphans of one veteran to $648, $1,128, and $1,512 respectively; and established the annual allowable income limits, excluding the allowance, at $252, $312, and $288 respectively.
- Provided that the Governor in Council may impose upon the Board or a District Authority duties similar to those performed by a District Authority under this Act in respect of any allowances authorized under any other Act, and such effect be given to any such adjudication by the Board or a District Authority as the Governor in Council may direct.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1962 - An Act to amend the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, S.C.1962, c.11

- Assented to February 23, 1962.
- Authorized the extension of benefits available to recipients under the War Veterans Allowance Act to certain specified groups of civilians who had performed meritorious service in wartime.
- Provided that all applications for allowances under Part XI of the Act be dealt with and adjudicated upon in the same manner as applications for allowances under the War Veterans Allowance Act.

1962 - An Act to amend the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, S.C.1962, c.10

- Effective June 1, 1962.
- Increased the amount of allowance payable to students over 21 years of age.
- Authorized the extension of assistance beyond four academic years or after an assisted student reaches 25 years of age.

1965 - An Act to amend the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, S.C.1965, c.15

- Effective September 1, 1964.
- Increased the monthly allowance for a student from $25 to $34.
- Authorized an additional amount for a student aged 21 or over if no pension is being paid on his behalf.

1965 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, S.C.1965, c.20

- Assented to June 30, 1965.
- Increased the annual allowance for a single veteran to $1,128, and for a veteran with a dependant to $1,932; increased the annual allowable income limits, excluding the allowance, to $468 for a single veteran and to $732 for a veteran with a dependant.
- Increased the annual allowance for one, two or three orphans of one veteran to $720, $1,260, and $1,692 respectively, and the annual allowable income limits, excluding the allowance, to $288, $348, and $324 respectively.
- Repealed the provisions for assisting employable veterans.
- Granted service eligibility to veterans of the Imperial or Allied forces who had served in the United Kingdom only

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

during World War I, provided they were domiciled in Canada at the time of joining such forces.

1966 - Public Accounts, 1967, page 43.29

- Effective September 1, 1966.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $1,260 for single status, and to $2,100 for married status; increased the annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, to $480 for single status and to $840 for married status.

1971 - An Act to amend the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, S.C.1970-71-72, c.31

- Assented to March 30, 1971.
- Provided that the Pension Act be "liberally construed and interpreted to the end that the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada to provide compensation to those members of the forces who have been disabled or have died as a result of military service, and to their dependants, may be fulfilled".
- Substantially extended benefits under the Act.
- Provided for an exceptional incapacity allowance.
- Provided for pension in an amount equal to a 50 percent disability pension for members of the Hong Kong Force and other persons imprisoned by the Japanese for one year or more.
- Provided for the establishment of an independent Bureau of Pensions Advocates to succeed the Veterans Bureau, to provide on request a counselling service to applicants and pensioners in respect of the Act.
- Specified that members of the Bureau of Pensions Advocates be appointed from among persons who are members of the bar in any province.
- Replaced Appeal Boards with Entitlement Boards, also consisting of three members of the Canadian Pension Commission.
- Provided that persons dissatisfied with any decision of the Commission with respect to the amount of an award might request a hearing by two members of the Commission.
- Established a Pension Review Board consisting of a chairman and four other members appointed by the Governor in Council for five years, to hear appeals from applicants dissatisfied with a decision of two members of the Commission or of an Entitlement Board, whose decision would be final and binding.
- Amended the Civilian and War Pensions Allowances Act by:

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

a) removing the requirement that application for pension be made within one year of the occurrence of the liability;

b) providing for pensions to disabled prisoners of war of the Japanese and in respect of deceased prisoners of war of the Japanese.

1971 - An Act to amend the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, S.C.1970-71-72, c.32

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Provided that pensions be awarded in accordance with the rates in Schedules A and B of the Pension Act in respect of disability or death caused by a war service injury.

1971 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1970-71-72, c.34

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Set the amount of a pension at not more than $804 a year, which the Canadian Pension Commission might award to a parent or person in place of a parent who was wholly or substantially maintained by a member of the forces who died leaving a widow or divorced wife entitled to a pension.
- Increased the scale of annual pension for disability to $175 for a five percent disability for all ranks and ratings, to $3,504 for a 100 percent disability for all ranks and ratings, with additional pension for dependants.
- Increased annual pensions for death to $2,640 for a widow and $1,800 for a dependent parent for all ranks and ratings, with additional pension for other dependants.

1971 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, 1952, S.C.1970-71-72, c.35

- Effective April 1, 1971.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $1,452 for single status and to $2,412 for married status. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.)
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable for one, two, or three or more orphans of one veteran to $828, $1,452 and $1,956 respectively. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.)

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

1972 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, the War Veterans Allowances Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and the Department of Veterans Affairs Act to provide for the annual adjustments of pensions and allowances payable thereunder, S.C.1972, c.12

- Effective January 1, 1972.
- Provided for the annual upward adjustment of pensions and allowances in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of War Veterans Allowance payable to $1,504.32 for single status and to $2,498.88 for married status. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.)
- Increased the maximum annual rate of War Veterans Allowance payable for one, two, or three or more orphans of one veteran to $857.76, $1,504.32, and $2,026.44 respectively. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.)

1972 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, 1972, c.20

- Assented to July 7, 1972.
- Increased the Canadian Pension Commission to not less than eight and not more than 14 members to be appointed by the Governor in Council, with an additional ten ad hoc commissioners if and as required, for the purpose of considering and adjudicating upon applications for pensions.

1973 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowances Act, S.C.1973-74, c.9

- Effective April 1, 1973.
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable to $1,813.68 for single status and to $3,086.52 for married status. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.)
- Increased the maximum annual rate of allowance payable for one, two, or three or more orphans of one veteran to $1,034.16, $1,813.68, and $2,443.20 respectively. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.)
- Repealed the personal property limitations and thereby changed the means test to a modified income test.

1973 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C.1973-74, c.19

- Effective July 1, 1973.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Set the amount of discretionary pension payable on the death of a member of the forces to a parent or a person in place of a parent wholly or substantially maintained by the member prior to or during his enlistment at a maximum of $1,050 per year each if the member also left a widow or divorced wife entitled to a pension. If both parents were dependent upon the member, the pension for one may be increased by an additional amount of up to $501 a year.
- Increased the scale of basic annual pension for disability for members of the forces from $235.20 for a five percent disability to $4,704 for a 100 percent disability, with additional pension for dependants.
- Increased the annual pension for death to $3,528 for a widow (75 percent of the basic pension) and $2,352 for a dependent parent (50 percent of the basic pension) of a member of the forces, with additional pension for other dependants.

1973 - Appropriation Act No.5, 1973, S.C.1973-74, c.47, Schedule, Veterans Affairs Vote 30a

- Assented to December 21, 1973.
- Amended the Pension Act to authorize the Commission to accept and administer any property or moneys conveyed to the Commission upon trust for the benefit of pensioners, their dependants, or any other person.

1974 - Statute Law (Veterans and Civilian War Allowances) Amendment Act, 1974, S.C.1974-75-76, c.8

- Assented to November 27, 1974.
- Changed from annual to quarterly (except for orphans) the upward adjustment of allowances in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index. (The amount of increase to be calculated on the Income Factor, and an equal amount added to the allowance rate.) Effective January 1, 1975.
- Provided for transitional quarterly increases in allowances (except for orphans) up to December 31, 1974. For the payment quarter October 1, 1974 to December 31, 1974 the maximum annual rate of allowance payable was $2,203.92 for single status and $3,754.80 for married status. (The annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, remained unchanged.) Retroactive to October 1, 1973.
- Provided that, for orphans, the upward annual adjustment of allowances in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index be calculated on the Income Factor, and an equal amount added to the allowance rate. Effective January 1, 1975.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Authorized a new annual allowance rate of $1,500 (less any Family Allowance) for each orphan, to replace the former rates for one, two, or three or more orphans. Changed the annual allowable income limits, excluding allowances, to $131.40 for each orphan up to December 31, 1974. Retroactive to April 1, 1974.
- Authorized an additional allowance payable at $600 annually (less any Family Allowance) in respect of each dependent child, to be adjusted upward quarterly in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index commencing January 1, 1975. Retroactive to October 1, 1974.
- Provided for cessation of allowances for male and female children, including orphans, who discontinue their education, and extended entitlement from age 21 to age 25 as long as such children continue their education.
- Provided for the exemption of all income of a child for allowance purposes, with the exception of Family Allowances.
- Provided for equality of status for males and females except in respect of the eligible age for allowances (60 for men and 55 for women).
- Extended the meaning of the terms "spouse" and "widow" to include a person of the opposite sex whom an applicant or recipient of allowance has publicly represented as his spouse and with whom he has been living for not less than three years if there is a bar to the marriage, or for not less than one year if there is no bar to the marriage.

1975 - Statute Law (Status of Women) Amendment Act, 1974, S.C.1974-75-76, c.66, ss.11-20 and 24

- Assented to July 30, 1975.
- Amended the Pension Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act to provide for equality of status for male and female persons.

1976 - Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, S.C. 1974-75-76, C.95

- Effective April 1, 1976.
- Continued provision for compensation equal to a 50 percent disability pension, to former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and civilians, as described in the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, who were imprisoned by the Japanese for one year of more (S.C. 1970-71-72, c.31).

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Extended compensation, equal to a 20 percent disability pension to those who were imprisoned by the Japanese for not less than 3 months but less than 12 months.
- Extended compensation to former prisoners of war of other powers during World War II at rates determined by the duration of captivity, as follows:

  not less than 3 months but less than 18 months - 10%

  18 months or more but less than 30 months - 15%

  30 months or more - 20%

  (These percentage rates relate to the amounts, paid under the Pension Act, for disabilities which carry similar assessments.)
- Extended the benefits to veterans of British and Allied forces who were domiciled in Canada or Newfoundland at the time of enlistment.
- Provided that compensation for prisoners of war be added to any disability pension subject to a ceiling equivalent to a 100 percent disability pension.
- Provided for benefits to surviving dependants on the same basis as under the Pension Act, i.e., dependants' benefits would be payable if the combined prisoner of war compensation and disability pension equal a 48 percent or higher disability pension.
- Provided that compensation for former prisoners of war be adjusted on January 1 each year in accordance with increases in the Consumer Price Index.

1977 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C. 1976-77, c.13

- Assented to May 12, 1977.
- Increased from five to ten years the term of appointment of the five members of the Pension Review Board.
- Authorized the appointment of a Deputy Chairman from among the members of the Pension Review Board.
- Authorized the Governor in Council to appoint two additional ad hoc members of the Pension Review Board for a period not in excess of one year.

1978 - An Act to amend the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, S.C. 1977-78, C.11

- Effective retroactively to April 1, 1976.

Veterans' Benefits (cont.)

- Extended eligibility criteria for compensation for former prisoners of war to include those who became prisoners of war during World War I, those who escaped from enemy incarceration, and those who evaded capture during or subsequent to World War I or II.

1980 - Statute Law (Military and Civilian War Pensions, Compensation and Allowances) Amendment Act, 1980, S.C.1980, c.19

- Assented to July 17, 1980.
- Provided for the payment of proportionate pensions or bonuses to widows or widowers and dependent children of pensioners, former prisoners of war and evaders whose pensions were 47% or less at the time of death of the pensioners, as follows:

when disability pension was paid at	from
38% to 47%	1 October 1980
33% to 47%	1 April 1981
28% to 47%	1 April 1982
23% to 47%	1 April 1983
18% to 47%	1 April 1984
13% to 47%	1 April 1985
5% to 47%	1 April 1986

- Extended pensions and allowances payable only to the date of death to the end of the month in which death occurs.
- Provided for the payment of pension to a widow and dependent children although death was the result of misconduct if the other eligibility requirements of the Pension Act are met.
- Removed the eligibility requirement that a woman who had been divorced or separated from a pensioner in his lifetime be in a dependent condition to qualify for widows' pension if she meets the other eligibility requirements.

1981 - An Act to amend the Pension Act and the Compensation of Former Prisoners of War Act, S.C. 1981, c.76

- Assented to July 10, 1981.
- Advanced to July 1, 1981, the effective date of all pensions and bonuses for widows or widowers and dependent children of pensioners, former prisoners of war and evaders whose pensions were 32% or less at the time of death of the pensioner.

1984 - An Act to amend the War Veterans Allowance Act, the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act and certain other Acts in Relation thereto, S.C. 1984, c.19

- Assented to June 14, 1984; effective July 1, 1984 (except as noted).

Definitions

- Expanded definition of "civilian" to include persons involved in United Nations operations in Korea, or who served for 28 days in dangerous waters off the coast of Korea.

- Expanded definition of both dependent child and orphan to include persons over 21 years of age who are incapable of earning a livelihood due to mental or physical incapacity. The incapacitating condition must have occurred before the age of 21 (or 25 if still in school). A dependent child also includes one who marries but remains financially dependent upon the recipient.

- Provided that "widow" include all eligible widows who have remarried and who become widowed, or legally separated or divorced a second time. (Formerly, a widow would have been ineligible if her second marriage had lasted at least five years.)

Financial Eligibility

- Provided that the statement of income for the past calendar year will be the basis for calculating entitlement; estimated income may be supplied where a significant income reduction is anticipated. (Formerly, current calendar year income was used as a basis.)

- Provided that the income statement supplied to the Department of National Health and Welfare for OAS/GIS purposes will be the sole one required for OAS/GIS recipients applying for War Veterans Allowance.

- Exempted payments under Veterans Care Regulations from income calculations.

Benefits

- Provided that a monthly allowance, calculated at the married rate, may be awarded to a surviving spouse upon death of a veteran spouse. Application must be made within one year. Use of this provision is at the discretion of the Minister. Similar allowances, also at the Minister's discretion, may be paid to surviving spouses on behalf of dependent children. These provisions replace lump sum benefits.

- Provided that payment of dependent child allowances become payable for the full month in which the child either becomes, or ceases to be, eligible.
- Increased Allowances by $20 (single) and $25 (married) per month for recipients under 65 years of age (in order to equalize rates with allowance recipients receiving OAS/GIS).
- Provided for quarterly indexing of orphan's benefits (formerly indexed annually).

Administration

- Repealed references to the District Authority; the Minister replaces the District Authority in administering provisions (effective October 1, 1984).
- Provided that the Bureau of Pension Advocates may provide counselling or assistance to allowance applicants/ recipients.

1984 - Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, S.C. 1985, c.40

- Assented to June 29, 1984.
- Repealed provisions in the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act which related rate of pension to person's rank or rating.

1985 - An Act to amend the Pension Act, S.C. 1985, c.4

- Effective February 26, 1985.
- Provided that couples involuntarily separated through injury/disease, temporary circumstances or circumstances beyond their control shall be deemed to be living together for entitlement and benefit purposes.
- Provided for continued payment, for one year, of a pension at the married rate to the spouse of a deceased pensioner. Also extended this continuation provision in cases of deceased pensioners who were in receipt of attendance or

exceptional incapacity allowances, at married rates. Pensions are also continued for one year at the married rate if the pensioner's spouse dies.

- Provided that widows already in receipt of compassionate or supplementary allowances may continue to receive these.

- Provided that annual pension indexing be done in accordance with the Consumer Price Index, or the average wage of five categories of public servants, whichever is greater (was formerly according to CPI only).

- Provided that, in the event of split decisions by Entitlement Boards and Assessment Boards of the Commission, the decision more favorable to the applicant will be taken (formerly, the reverse was true).

- Provided that the Chairman of the Commission shall designate 2 or 3 members of the Commission to be an Entitlement Board (previously, Entitlement Boards consisted of 3 members).

1986 - The Divorce Act, S.C. 1986, c.4

- Assented to February 13, 1986.

- Expanded Pension Act provisions for divorced/separated widows to include those receiving support or maintenance (formerly only alimony).

1986 - An Act to amend the Army Benevolent Fund Act, the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, the Pension Act, the Veterans' Land Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act, S.C. 1986, c.15

- Assented to March 3, 1986; effective May 1, 1986.

- Under the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act, increased to twenty-five percent (formerly twenty percent) compensation payable to an evader, or persons held prisoner for a period of 30 or more months.

- Under the Pension Act, allowed the Pension Commission (at its discretion) to direct payment of any pension, on behalf of a deceased pensioner, to the pensioner's estate.

- Raised the age limit for a dependent child from 17 to 18 years as defined under Pension and War Veterans Allowance Acts.

- Provided that widows have the right to appeal decisions on pension claims in progress at the time of the pensioner's death.

- Provided that a widow may be entitled to a pension on behalf of a deceased spouse who, though not in receipt of a pension, would have been eligible.

- Provided that the ceiling of 100% be eliminated for recipients of disability pensions, who also receive compensation under the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act.

- Amended the War Veterans Allowance Act to allow for clarification of the definition and assessment of income and to ensure that initial applicants for the allowance will be treated as generously as recipients.

1987 - An Act to establish the Veterans Appeal Board and to amend other Acts in relation thereto. S.C. 1987, c. 25.

- Established the Veterans Appeal Board through the merger of the Pension Review Board and the War Veterans Allowance Board.

1987 - An Act to amend the Pension Act and the War Veterans Allowance Act and to repeal the Compensation for Former Prisoners of War Act. S.C. 1987, c. 45.

- Effective February 1, 1988.

- Provided authority to take into account the prisoner of war compensation paid to veterans in calculating pension benefits for their survivors.

- Provided for the payment of prisoner of war compensation at the married rate for a full year following the death of a spouse.

- Allowed for the payment of prisoner of war survivor benefits where a deceased veteran was not also receiving a disability pension.

- Defined the minimum qualifying period for compensation at 89 days instead of three months and converted other qualifying periods from months and years to days.

- Allowed the Canadian Pension Commission to grant prisoner of war compensation in cases where an applicant was technically not eligible but there were strong reasons for applying the spirit of the law.

- Authorized the Minister to administer that portion of War Veterans Allowance which exceeded the single rate in those cases where a recipient failed to maintain dependants for whom there was a legal responsibility.

- Provided for the communication of veterans allowance information to the Department of National Health and Welfare for Old Age Security administration purposes to improve accuracy of benefit payments.

- Extended dependent children's pension benefits by one year up to age 18 where this had not already been done.

- Gave the Canadian Pension Commission clear authority to inspect veterans' records held by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- Increased the terms of Ad Hoc Canadian Pension Commissioners from one up to five years and authorized the Minister to appoint temporary Commissioners for terms of up to six months, renewable once only, to meet unexpected increases in workload.

1989 - Statute Law (Superannuation) Amendment Act

- Repealed the required forfeiture of pension rights for surviving spouses who remarry.

- Allowed for surviving spouses who lost their pensions through remarriage to apply for reinstatement.

- Provided that surviving children aged 18 to 25 who are full-time students in school or university to continue to receive the allowances they are entitled to, even if they marry.

- Disallowed the reduction of the allowances paid to a surviving spouse if the spouse is more than 20 years younger than the contributor.

1990 - An Act to amend the statute law in relation to war veterans

- Required Veterans Affairs to pay interest, effective January 1, 1990, on the accounts the Department administers on behalf of veterans.

- Established a trust fund that requires the government to use the proceeds from the estates of veterans who die without heirs to benefit other veterans.

- Allows widows or widowers of Class 2 pensioners, disabled pensioners whose disability is assessed at under 5 percent, to continue to receive the monthly attendance allowance for up to one year after the death of the veteran. Previously, the surviving spouse lost this allowance after the death of the veteran.

- Removed the means test for disabled children of deceased veterans.

- Provided a clothing allowance for veterans whose disability causes wear and tear on their clothing.

- Extended the term of Veterans Appeal Board Members from five and three years to seven and five years.

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